

The Master of Dreams: Reconciliation

God-given dreams reflect God's heart

- They put us on a collision course with evil, bring healing and justice.
- They save people's lives.
- If the dream you are pursuing doesn't meet these criteria then it's **possible** that your pursuing a dream that isn't from God.

Because of Joseph's faithfulness - pursuit of his God-given Dream

- he's overcome resentment, lust and apathy
- he's saving the lives of millions of people and overcoming tragedy
- His married with children. Rich, powerful, respected, feared. A fairytale ending!

But that's not the end of the story.

Genesis 42 6 Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. 7 As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he asked. "From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food." 8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. 9 Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

This is the part of Joseph's story where everything comes full circle:

- The reality is bigger than the dream yes
- But the dream is fulfilled!
 - **Joseph's brothers come and bow before him**
 - And what is a man supposed to do? Revenge? Retribution?

Genesis 45 4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 5 And now, do not be distressed and do **not be angry with yourselves** for selling me here, because **it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you**. 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. 7 **But God sent me ahead of you** to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Not revenge and retribution but reconciliation.

- And more than surface reconciliation but a deep love for his brothers who sold him into slavery, even against his pleas for mercy.

God gives us dreams for reconciliation

- God gives us dreams for relationship. **That's ultimately his heart.**

- What profit is there for Joseph to save the whole world but to **lose his family?**

Broken relationships are the result of our rebellion. It was never meant to be this way.

- **Who are the people that have hurt you the most?** Who have rejected you? Gossiped about you? The ones who wished you dead and sold you into slavery? Enemies. Friends. Family.
- The people that have hurt me the most have been those closest to me: family members and Christians: spiritual family members.

So how does Joseph do it?

Genesis 50 20 *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children."*

Joseph knows that there's a different perspective.

- That God is so in charge that even evil events can be redeemed.
- That God is so in charge that even evil acts can be forgiven.
 - It's painful, it's wrong, it makes God angry, but it can be redeemed and those who perpetrate can be forgiven.

Joseph knows that motives matter.

- Joseph's brother's actions were motivated by resentment. By evil. They intended harm.
- But God's motives matter the most.

Conclusion

I don't know where you are in your journey

- if you're in the pit chose God's perspective and not revenge.
- if you're in the prison chose God's power to redeem and not retribution.
- if you've been falsely accused and forgotten chose God's plan and not bitterness.

Reconciliation might seem impossible, but knowing that God is in charge makes is possible.

- How many people are alone and in prison now because they were hurt by brothers and sisters in Christ?
- Maybe you're the hurt one? Maybe you're the hurting one? We're often both.

Can we, ENM, be a people that are pursue our God-given Dream and lead in reconciliation.

- There's broken relationships out there.
- There's broken relationships in here.
- There's broken relationships in here, in me.

Maybe God wants to liberate us today, if we'll choose him.