

DREAM POWER

Scripture used: Luke 19:1-8 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

Big Idea:

We all grow up with vibrant dreams about the future, imagining ourselves in captivating occupations and lives. But then “life happens”, and real life tends to be a slayer of dreams. Sometimes, we trade our own dreams for those of others. Others of us run into tragedy, and we wonder whether we should trust God, whether it’s safe to dream, and if there is a point to it. Our Scripture today portrays a jaded man, in a corrupt occupation, who dared to dream as Jesus walked through his village, and was fully redeemed as a result.

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Scripture is replete with powerful images of both woe & promise.** [Habakkuk 1:26](#) talks about misery and destruction. But [Habakkuk 2:2-3](#) outlines a vision for a future time, which may seem slow in coming but requires patience. [Zechariah 8:4-6](#) shows us a city filled with people at play. [Isaiah 11:6-9](#) highlights universal harmony between all of God’s creatures. [Revelation 21:1-5](#) speaks of a New Jerusalem, with God taking His place among His people, wiping away tears, sorrow, and pain. God calls us not to lose sight of the ultimate dream, God’s full redemption of Creation, achieved by God and through our partnership with God!
- 2) **The promise is coming, but neither easily nor quickly. So we need to write our dreams down.** Dr King gave an iconic speech during the March on Washington in 1963. He started by painting the world as it is, where people are complacent by injustice, beaten into submission. Then, Mahalia Jackson shouted, “Martin, tell them about the dream!”, and he went off-script and described his prophetic vision, one where people are known for their character, not the color of their skin. He wrote down the dream for us. Pastor Hurmon mentioned Arthur Ashkin (born 1922) who just won the Nobel Prize in Physics at 96 years old for his immensely useful invention: optical tweezers. He had forgotten about honors and recognitions, until this very top one came unexpectedly so late in life!
- 3) **In our Scripture today, Zacchaeus is an unlikely “top dog”.** He is a man of wealth and power. Yet his name means “pure” and “innocent” while he’s the exact opposite: he lives through graft and corruption. His self-concept is dissonant from his actual life. His physical stature is short, which reflects his spiritual stature. He climbs a fruit tree in contrast to his fruitless life. Jesus asks to come into the intimacy of his house, and teach him about the kingdom. Jesus shows that every God-given dream has some key attributes: the dream involves God, the dream moves toward generosity, and the dream moves toward justice. Zacchaeus’ response reflects that God’s redemptive dream can still be fulfilled in his life, no matter where he is starting from. He is no longer a millionaire in currency, but he is now rich in good deeds as his life is transformed.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What are the earliest dreams you can remember for your life? How did your dreams change as they faced the reality of life? What were the major influences that either sustained or made you give up on your dreams?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Do you see yourself as the pursuer of a God-given dream? What is challenging to you as think about the prospect of living life in this way? Assess areas of fear or cynicism that may prevent you from pursuing your dreams. Where you are in terms of patience and continued hope and yearning for your dreams? Are you asking God for help?
- 3) **DO** - If you haven’t already, reflect on the dreams that God may be putting on your heart and create space to write down your dreams. If you aren’t sure where to start, find concrete examples of generosity and justice that you have experienced in which God’s dream for you has begun to be realized.