

Dream Big

by Chris Famisaran

Let's pray Father, As we now take time to open the word as we talk and as we enter into communion. Be with us. In Jesus name, Amen.

2015 Mark Patterson wrote, "At any given day, 23,000 scheduled flights take off and land at American airports, and at any given time, 5000 of those airplanes are simultaneously airborne. So this means there's probably about a million people in the air right now flying around the country. Now, in the 1800s and before that, the idea of flying was fiction, science fiction, to be exact. And then two brothers come along, Wilbur and Orville Wright. They turned science fiction into science fact. The Wright Brothers dreams actually go back to 1878 when their father, a pastor actually, and a church leader. He one day brought home a toy. It was a rubber band attached to a miniature bamboo helicopter that flew into the air. And as it came down to try to land, it came down with a glaring crash, like probably many miniature toy helicopters have probably happened over the years." It happened to me. "And yet, several years later, a quarter century later, on December 17th, 1903, Orville was Orville himself went airborne for 12 gravity defying seconds. At that point, fiction became fact. And just like every innovation, every resolution, every breakthrough, someone had to think of it, to dream it, to realize that the impossible was possible. Every dream has its genesis moment, and it usually starts small, in this case, a small toy helicopter. But the chain reaction that eventually followed was amazing. It defied gravity. It defies imagination without knowing it. The Wright Brothers created an airline industry. The FAA and the TSA, and I'm sure it never crossed their minds. But their flying their flying faith is the reason why over a million people right now are in the air speeding through the atmosphere right now to passengers. Two Pastor's kids, Orville and Wilbur Wright."

Isn't that amazing? Imagine how far we've come where we now get into a steel tube flying about in the air. I want to go to the Book of Genesis and the Book of Genesis, chapter 37. There's a young man who has a dream. So let's go and open.

By the way, somebody asked Pastor, why don't you put the text on the screen? To which my response was, It's just too easy. If we do that. I want you to be able to bring your Bibles or get the Bible in front of you and pull it out and read for yourself. Sometimes analog ain't that bad. Now, if you don't have a Bible in front of you, but you have a phone, go ahead, use your phone or tablet. But we want you to be readers of the word literally. We want you to be able to open the Bible for yourselves.

And it's here we find that a young man by the name of Joseph, he was a young man. He had some older brothers. He wasn't the youngest but close to it. And his father was Jacob, well known man. And it's here that Jacob lived in the land with his father, where his father had stayed the land of Canaan. And this is the account of Jacob's family. So, Joseph, a young man, how old was he? 17. When you're 17. How much do you know? Nothing. Nada. But when you're 17, you think you know what? Know everything, right?

By the way, my family's here, and I tell you why do you always show up when I have to talk about siblings. By the way... I won't say that. I am the oldest of four. So my sister Tricia, who is number two, is here with her kids Landon, Holly that's her kids. Pay attention because we're going to be talking about sibling rivalry. By the way, you're just like your mom and me. I'm just taking advantage of a loving brother, not picking on, but showing love to my family. I'm still her older brother.

Joseph, a young man of 17, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah of his father's wives. And he brought their father a bad report. So what is Joseph also known as? He's a snitch. All right. Now, Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. And by the way, Joseph was also later named Israel. Same dude. Because he was born in them to him was an old age. And by the way, who was Joseph's mom? Rachel. And Rachel was Joseph, Israel's first real true love. Okay. And he made an ornate robe for him, a coat of many colors. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of the others. They hated him and couldn't speak a kind word to him. Awkward. Joseph has a dream now. And when he had told it to his brothers, they hated him even more.

Because he said to them, Listen to this dream I had. We were buying in sheaves of grain, out in the yard and out in the field, when suddenly my sheaf rose and

stood upright while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to me. It's pretty clear when saying I'm second to youngest, but you guys are going to basically I'm going to be better than you all, and I'm basically going to be Lord of you all. I wouldn't take that well.

And so he's there. The brothers say, Hey, do you intend to rule over us? Will you actually rule us? And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said then. He has a second dream, not just one, but two. And he told to his brothers, Listen, I had another dream. And this time the sun and the moon and 11 stars were bowing down to me. But guess who also was there this time? His dad. And so when he told his father, as well as his brothers, his dad, what? He rebukes him. And he said, What is this dream you had? Well, your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you. His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

So kind of a rough start for Joseph early in his life. He was young. He was the baby brother. That was that little annoying brother. Anybody have those? I love my baby brother and sister. I do. And yet we find that there is just some consternation and friction.

Yet. Joseph, he has these dreams. And these aren't just little dreams. They're big dreams. Now, what I'm going to talk about next is a verse that I think is I like to call it the thesis statement of the Old Testament, how we should live our lives. So, Micah 6:8. You ever had a life verse? I have two.

This one. And then first Corinthians. But Micah, 6:8. And truly, this is how I love to live my life. He has shown you, O mortal, what is good and what does the Lord require of you? How should we act? Justly and to love what? be your kindness and to walk how humbly with your God? What does the Lord view to act justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly, to right, to be loving, to be kind and to be humble.

And as you look through Joseph's life, he learns these lessons and he learns them pretty quick. Because what happens next in his life? He goes out again, his father, and sends them out to check on his brothers again. And they're already mad at him. And some of them, they're just so sick of him. So what did they end up trying to do?

First they thought, Well, let's try to kill him. And then they thought, well, that's not a good idea. And only we hate him that much. But they do something just as bad. They sell them off to who? slave traders, and he ends up going where? To Egypt. And of course, what do they got to do? There's no body because they said, Oh, our little baby brother died and Animal got him. And by the way, his robe is all torn up. They had to tear the robe itself, dip it in blood and give it to their father. And so not only do they sell their brother off, they have to lie to their dad. That's going to be awkward later. And so he's sold off. And fortunately enough, though, God was faithful and he protected him because where does he land? In Potiphar's household. And so Potiphar puts him to work. And it's here. He's been humbled by now because he's in a foreign land and Potter first sets him in charge. And guess what happens to Joseph? Everything that he touches. God blesses. Potiphar is stoked about this, gives them more responsibility to the point where Joseph is managing everything and all Potiphar has to do is choose what he wants to eat for breakfast. That's a pretty cool deal.

But for Mrs. Potiphar, as we've discussed, already had ill intentions. Correct. And so she tries to persuade Joseph, but he's not going to have anything of it. So he's humble. He's learned to be humble. And as Micah 6:8 says, he also is a man of integrity. He says no, in fact, he flees. Well, unfortunately, Mrs. Potiphar lies and tells Potiphar for oh, he tried to attack me.

So what is Potiphar for do? He has to send him away. And he goes where? To jail. For a week? Years! And being in jail at that time was not a luxurious position. But even in jail, humble circumstances cause Joseph to be more humble and everything that he touched as well, God blessed.

And you see this series of life circumstances life story where Joseph is humble and he's probably wondering, God, why? Why is this the case?

Long story short, he ends up in Pharaoh's house because the dream and Joseph listens to God and he tells Pharaoh what is about to happen. And does Pharaoh receive this report well? Ultimately, yes, because what does he do to Joseph? He makes Joseph the prime minister of all of Egypt. By the way, such a unique case because Joseph isn't an Egyptian, Joseph,

he's a Hebrew. Why are you doing, though? Sure. Somebody is probably thinking, why couldn't he pick one of us? Why couldn't Pharaoh stay true to our people? No. He picks a foreigner to lead, and it's there because of his position. He was able to actually one day. Guess who shows up? His brothers. He. They don't recognize who he is.

And it's here that Joseph is able to actually practice. Humility, restraint, humility, love. And justice. Throughout Joseph's life, he was true. He was true to his dad because he told the truth. His brothers weren't doing the best job, but he needed to learn humility along the way. But he also learned to be merciful, because when he was the prime minister, what could Joseph have done to his brothers?

He could have rounded them all up and throw them away and lock them. Lock them away. He could have, but he doesn't. He wants to see had they grown from their experience before, when they sold him. He was kind. And I tell you, that had to be a lot of patience. But he was patient with them. He worked with them several times. They would go, We've come back. We've come back. And in the end, he forgave his brothers. Do justly love mercy, all being humble and faithful to God and serving God throughout his whole life, being humble.

Along the way, though, Joseph had this dream very often for very early on in his life. And it wasn't until much later. And he should have had some humility. Probably wasn't the best idea to say, Hey, guess what? Brothers and Dad, I'm going to rule over you. Let's be a little more humble about it. But as everybody, when you think about things you want to accomplish, maybe share, Does everybody understand and maybe have the same enthusiasm that you might have? You know, sometimes they're going to laugh you off. You're going to make decisions and say, I want to accomplish this great task and and have it be a focal point in my life, my life. And they're going to think you're crazy, dude. Sometimes you're going to be misunderstood. And along the way, sometimes you're going to be asked to compromise your values. Much like Joseph and Mrs. Potiphar.

But being humble, being faithful, being true and being kind, really being loving, is a recipe that if we are faithful to that, God will lead and guide us. And honestly, can you hate a nice person if they're genuinely nice, and their humble and they

do the right thing? Unless it's impeding your evil scheme, you know? So be humble, be kind, be loving, but don't be afraid too.

Why? Why did I pick this particular story? Is because, like Joseph, I think we all should have dreams. Dreams of personal dreams of things that we want to accomplish. But more importantly, what are the dreams and ideas that God is planting in your life? And I want to ask this question early on, because it's the first Sabbath of 2023.

And as we go through 2023, what is God impressing upon your heart where maybe God has a plan to have you minister to people, whether here in this church or in your home or in your work, the playground, Ralph's, the post office. Where is God calling you to Minister?

Next week we're going to start a series called Where the Rubber Meets the Road or Keep the Rubber Side Down. Sorry, some of you are now, What in the world are you talking about, Pastor? Keep the rubber side down? If you're a cyclist, You know what I'm talking about. You're not a cyclist. You're going to have to come back next week.

We're going to talk about mission. We're going to talk about vision. All of these things that are important in Discover, not only just in your personal life, but eventually as well as we talk about it corporately, what God has in store for us, in our mission to our surrounding communities. Amen.

And to kick that all off, I want to have a fresh start. I think I'd like to actually just before we get to that, what are your dreams, desires, goals that is God pressing upon you to ministering, using the gifts and talents job been blessed with? Okay. Even if you have one small, little measly little talent or gifts, God has blessed you with it. Use it!

And this week. Pray that God will give you an opportunity and guide you to live out Micah 6:8. To be kind, to be loving, to be just to be merciful, to be humble.

I'd like to invite Bill and Gustavo to come up now as we take time to participate in our communion service. And I'd also like to invite our deacons to please come forward.

For those of you who've maybe never been a part of this, we're going to take a moment. We're going to pray for these emblems. Here. We have the juice in the bread that Jesus talks about in the Gospels, that every gospel account has some form of the communion story except for John. John does a little differently. The bread represents what? his body and the juice represents? his blood.

And so as we participate in this, may reflect on what God has done for you at this time. I'd like to ask Gustavo and Bill to please pray over this.

Let's bow our heads for prayer. Heavenly Father, we ask you in the name of Jesus, as we take partake in this bread, to bless it and to sanctify it, Father. To the souls of all those who receive them that they may eat and remember the great sacrifice of your son's body. Bless us, Father. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the juice, which represents your blood, your innocent, holy, precious blood. Lord that was spilled for us when we didn't deserve it. No way we can pay that back. There's no way we can begin to even understand. But Lord, thank you so much. Without that we would be lost. So today, Lord, we remember what you did for us and help us to be the kind of people that carry that forward and help other people learn about it too. Be with us now, in Jesus name, Amen.

At this time as they're passing the emblems out. Is there anybody who would like to share? Or have a very brief testimony, one minute or less, of how God has blessed you recently. This is something that if you're new here, this is something that we like to do. We like to give opportunity for our members or friends to be able to share something that God is working in their lives.

So if you raise your hand real quick, please keep it brief. Anybody? Okay, We'll come back to you Danny.

Hi, my name is Denise. If nobody... if you don't know me, I just want to thank God for giving me another chance of life. I, I almost didn't make it a little bit ago, but I'm here and I'm praising God, and I just want to thank him for walking me

through everything that I went through. Because if it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be here.

And I want to also thank him for my family, who has been just so wonderful and helping me get through this as well. My husband and my kids. I just thank God and I just want God to bless them as well. Thank you.

Hi. My name is Danny. God blessed me in so many ways, being here is a miracle for me. You know, my life, rough life, doing what I want. You took me along, took me a long time to convert myself, to give up everything But through the grace of God, He's given me the power and strength. The surgeries that I went through to meeting people to go and do Bible studies and fellowship. A lot closer. But still, I still got to keep, you know, the struggle still real and I still go through battles no matter what in the way I look at it now, with the more tough for the battles, the more close I'm getting to God. Because the devil is not going to let me go. He's going to keep on trying no matter what. But he's giving me the strength through his friends family to be by my side. So that way I don't fall because it's just me and my mind. That's it. I'm at my worst, this enemy. And I just want to thank the church for staying online so I could keep communication online. And everybody here have a blessed year and safety and health.

Thank you, Danny. All right. Is there anybody else? Do we have one more? Is that it?

Happy Sabbath. My name is Yvonne, and I just wanted to thank everybody for allowing us to pray for you every week and just wanted to remind everyone that we, a few of us meet every after church up in front and just have prayer requests and just give praises to the Lord and you're all welcome to come. And so it's just it's been a blessing to pray for people because it just you see what God does and people open their hearts and share the things and their struggles and the praises. So it's just been a real blessing. And that's it.

That's right. Thank you so much. Okay. We're going to invite our deacons to please come forward.

Now, several years later, after Jesus had left and Paul is writing to our Corinthian believers, he writes and he's reminded in the first Corinthians chapter 11, verse

23, it says, For I received from the Lord, but I also passed on to you, Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, He took bread when he had given thanks, He broke it and said, This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

And the verse 25, he says. In the same way, after this supper he took the cup, saying This cup is the New covenant in my blood. Do this whenever you drink it in remembrance of me.

It's for whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's Death until he comes again.

My friends, until that day. May we go forward in faith, Courage. May God lead. God bless you. Maybe, just maybe, Loving and may you be humble.

Father in heaven. Thank you, Lord, for all that you're doing in our lives. May you lead and guide us in all that we do. Help us to be faithful and help us, Lord, impress upon us the dreams and desires that you have for us to be able to minister. But also just may we be the community of the loving community that you've called us to be here in Downey and or surrounding communities, wherever we go, our home or work or plane or class help us to be the faithful ambassadors You've called us to be in Jesus name. Everybody said, Amen.

May God bless you.