

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

"The Power to Wait"

SERMON FOUR: "Waiting on Your Dreams"

Genesis 37:5; 41:39 - 43(NJKV)
Isaiah 40:31 (NJKV)

- Over the past several weeks, we have discussed how we as believers are empowered by God to wait.
- We looked at how Job was empowered to wait on his change.
- We saw how Abraham was empowered to wait on his dream.
- To those of us who have faith in God's Word, to wait means, "to expect patiently with hope."
- Once again, the key is hope; hope is defined as "a feeling that what is wanted will happen."
- Waiting without hope leads to misery, which leads to discouragement, which leads to destruction.
- This message will emphasize how Joseph, a young man of great faith was empowered to wait on his dream.
- In this message, a dream is defined as: (1) an involuntary vision occurring to a person while awake or asleep, and (2) an aspiration, goal, or aim.
- Let us examine Joseph, his dream, as well as what he had to go through as a result of his dream.
- Joseph was the 11th of 12 sons of Jacob. According to Genesis 37:3, he was the favorite.
- At age seventeen, Joseph had two dreams that would change his life forever.

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- These dreams indicated that Joseph would reign supreme over his brothers as well as over the whole house of Israel one day.
- The dreams of Joseph were more than wishful thinking or wild fantasy; they were visions from the Lord.
- However, Joseph discovered that not everyone wants to celebrate your dreams with you.
- Even more painfully, he discovered that sometimes those who are close to you become jealous of your dreams.
- Over the next 13 years, Joseph experienced betrayal, bondage, false accusation, and imprisonment - all because he had dreams.
- It is important to note that Joseph never gave up on his dreams, even when it looked as if they would never come to pass.
- It is also worth noting that in spite of all that Joseph went through he remained faithful to his God.
- It would have been easy for Joseph to lose faith in the pit, or in prison, or as a slave in Egypt; but like his great grandfather Abraham, he wavered not at the promise of God.
- In Genesis 41:39 – 43, Joseph's dreams began to come true.
- Because of his ability to interpret Pharaoh's dreams, Joseph not only was released from prison, he was also made ruler over all of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh.
- According to Genesis 50:18, just as Joseph dreamed some 27 years earlier, his older brothers bowed down at his feet.
- Because Joseph had the faith to wait on his dreams to come to pass, God blessed him in a special way.
- Everyone who may be contemplating giving up on his or her dreams should remember Joseph's testimony.
- He waited 27 years for his dreams to come true.
- The Power to Wait!