

## WHEN OUR DREAM ROAD TAKES A STRANGE TURN

Rev Gayle Claxton, 24 September 2017 – Morning Service

- Don't ever take the presence of God for granted
- It is your job to emerge yourself in God's Presence
- Sometimes we give the devil more glory in our lives than what we should
- If something goes wrong it doesn't necessarily mean it is the devil as he does not have power over the plans of Jesus
- The bad news is comfort will kill your vision
- God will give you enough challenges in your life so you cannot become comfortable so that you can Grow
- God is interested in your character
- You don't need a couch potato anointing to touch the world
- Jesus said when you go through the fire or waters I will be with you
- Through.....we need to get through the difficulties and challenges
- It is time we get our eyes fixed on Jesus and not criticism
- Joseph: When God called Joseph he goes through things he did not imagine God will do
- Where is God in the midst of our life changing?
- All of a sudden, it can seem as if all God's provision has been taken away from you
- We will go through stages where God will change us to maturity
- So we can say follow me as I follow Christ
- We need disciples
- Challenges are there to make us not to break us
- Joseph is the picture of the faithful journey to success

### **Genesis 39:1-20**

*Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care, with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. One day he went into the house to attend to his duties and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me but I screamed. When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.*

- Sometimes we have to lay everything down and trust God to fight for us
- The way you respond is the way you allow the character of God to be formed in you
- God is the restorer, provider, the one who makes a way

- Joseph was framed when he was loyal
- Sometimes for us it is the hardest thing to deal with, when you feel you are doing something but you don't get the recognition
- We have to realise the devil will try everything to get you off track
- Check your heart with everything you do
- Ask yourself: "Am I doing this for God or am I doing this for recognition?"
- Each of us are likely to find life's challenges in different levels
- When our dreams disappear, we get comfortable in our disappointment. We then sit in that disappointment because we feel sorry for ourselves
- Comfort kills

## How can we succeed?

### 1. Reaffirm God's presence by not presuming God's intent

- We assume God is far away
- We assume God steps back in our time of difficulty but when we reaffirm we will see God is working with you in your time of difficulty
- When we presume we operate in **little faith** (First stage of faith), Lord I know you can but don't know how you will
- The enemy will paralyse your faith in that what God has planned for you
- Fear in your marriages, family etc.
- How do you reaffirm the presence of God?
- Sometimes going through difficult situations it is very difficult to pray
- So how do we break through that paralysing situation? Only through worship
- When you invite the presence of God, He cannot stay away when you begin to praise Him
- When you begin to create an atmosphere, He inhabits and faith is released in the dimension of where God is
- Begin to embrace the presence of God
- **Worship is the key**
- Worship allows you to not keep your eyes fixed on your problems
- When we presume God is far away, it is one of the common responses to our human heart
- God I know you can but I am sorry I just don't know if you will: Little faith
- We intend to miss interpret or over interpret our situations for instance, something that was said to us
- It is the very seed that was sown into the hearts and minds of Adam and Eve
- If you go back to where it all started, Adam and Eve presumed that God was not there
- The moment you presume that God is not there you will start to compromise
- Paralysed faith allows compromise
- When you sit in your pit or rejection and you start to look at what God should be doing you start to compromise
- It is the small things that will get you to react with hate against someone else
- It is the small things that will make us think God is not there

### **Genesis 40:8**

*"We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."*

- He knew he could use his gift
- Sometimes we try to use our gifting to get us out of situations instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to work for us

### **Genesis 41:14-16**

*So Pharaoh sent for Joseph and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." "I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."*

- Even in the most difficult situation, Joseph reaffirms God's presence

- The Holy Spirit cannot lead and direct you if you think God is not there
- When we reaffirm God's plans and God's presence, we open a new realm of God's presence where only God can take us
- We get so involved with stuff that is irrelevant when the world is going to hell
- Your opinions will save no one, your life will save everyone
- Your life will be the measure by which people will see Christ

## 2. Reaffirm God's potential by making the best of a bad situation

- We become passive instead of pressing through
- God will place you in situations to develop the potential God has placed in you
- When your dream takes a turn, reaffirm your potential
- Success is not letting dead ends kill you - AB Lincoln

## 3. We need to reaffirm God's principles

- We need to reaffirm God's principles by growing in our character
- Because life is difficult we justify our compromise. But we need to stand by the principles of God. There is no way you will know the principles of God without the Bible
- It is in the darkest times when it is easy to take short cuts, whether it is in your family or marriage
- We allow the devil to infiltrate our emotions
- We need to affirm the principles of sowing and paying tithes to the church
- It starts at home. Where are you reaffirming your principles of God at home?
- Your actions speak louder than words
- Justification for the compromise of sin will come in if you don't stand
- Anger and lust will be the product of compromise
- You know what really lies in your heart, when you are forced to show it
- **Pressure will always show you the real man**

### **Genesis 39:3-12**

*When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care, with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God? "And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. One day he went into the house to attend to his duties and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.*

- How many of us are content with our weaknesses?
- Your character will grow through the challenges you face
- It is time to get moving into great faith, by reaffirming
- **Great faith** (second stage of faith): I know God in His time will
- **Perfect Faith** (third stage of faith): it is done
- That is what we need to strive for
- Lord I am going to reaffirm who you are no matter my circumstances, it is done in Jesus name
- How did Joseph succeed? He was moved by the larger power, by knowing God is in control
- Will you be moved by what you see or will you be directed by the greater power?