



Fulfilment of a Dream

WEEK ONE – THE DREAMER

Genesis 37

Almost everyone will know of Joseph if only because of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical: *Joseph and his amazing technicolour dream coat*.

In this early part of his life, Joseph could be considered *TYPICAL TEENAGER* (!): thinking they know everything; believing that they are the centre of the universe.

BUT God wants to use young people: Timothy for example was just out of his teens when he was called to be an apostle; David saved the Israelites from the Philistines when he killed Goliath when he was probably in his late teens. You had to be 20 to join in the Israeli army, but David was still too young for that (1 Samuel 17). Gideon, youngest and least in his father's house, delivered Israel from the Midianites, (Judges 6-8).

Although they don't have the maturity of years, nevertheless young people often have the enthusiasm, energy and drive which sometimes wanes with increasing age. The great news, however, is that **God used Joseph at all stages of his life**, and that can be our experience.

Joseph was his father's favourite son, being the firstborn of Jacob's favourite wife, Rachel, and born in his old age. (Benjamin was born after this). The favouritism was such that His older brothers hated him and was compounded by the expensive multi-coloured coat (**verse 3**). *"But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him."* (**verse 4**)

- This is an important message for all parents. It is important not to show favouritism because of the long-term damage it can do to the other children. Have you ever experienced this in your family? If so, how have you dealt with it?

Read verses 5-11 Being young, Joseph did not appreciate the impact of sharing these dreams. It requires wisdom to know how and when to share what God has revealed to you. If you are unsure of the difference between dreams and visions, it is simply that a dream is a vision of the night. According to the Bible, a vision is something that occurs when a man is awake, while a dream is something that occurs when a man is asleep.

- Has God spoken to you in a dream or vision? It doesn't have to be something profound; it can be a simple idea placed in your mind. In Habakkuk 2:2 it says: *Then the LORD said to me, "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it."* It's always a good idea to write down any important thoughts or visions that the Lord gives you whilst it is still clear our minds. If it raises questions, then speak to someone from the ministry team or a close Christian friends so they can pray with you.
- Why were Joseph's brothers so angry about the dreams? It is interesting to note the end of verse 11 in the NKJV: *"His father kept the matter in mind"*.
- Verses 12 to the end tell the story of how the brothers planned to kill Joseph. Such was their anger and envy that they wanted to get rid of him. Only Reuben had the courage to stand out against plan, persuading them to put him in a pit, planning to later come and rescue him.
- To what extent are we prepared to take a stand when in the minority, even of one as was Reuben? Christians and their faith are increasingly under attack from the media and individuals. How do we deal with this in our own lives?
- On their return to Jacob, the beautiful coat, now stained with blood, was the evidence of Joseph's death. However, Joseph was now in Egypt in the house of Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

There are important lessons for us to learn from this account. The Billy Graham Foundation gives this advice:

"Don't give in to Satan's temptations, and don't be content to let your mind wander in places it shouldn't. Instead, turn to Jesus Christ and commit your life to Him. Then [ask Him](#) to fill your mind with [His love](#) and peace and righteousness. The Bible says: "we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16) "

MAY THIS BE OUR PRAYER

