

# Never Give Up On Your Dream!

**Text:** Genesis 37:19-20 *And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan. And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.*

**Introduction:** We all have dreams - some call it vision...but unfortunately very few ever realize those dreams. Some dream of fame and fortune, others dream of success in a given field – music, sport, business. As Christians we hear a lot of talk about destiny - and you've heard me talk about vision a lot. So today we're going to take a little look at the life of Joseph - the bible's big dreamer. From his life we can glean some truths to help us realize our dreams.

**1. Don't give up on your dream, though you didn't start well:** At 17 Joseph dreamed that one day his family would bow down to him. But he made the mistake of sharing that information with them. And it got him into a lot of trouble. But it didn't stop him. The beginning of a dream often generates more enthusiasm than wisdom. We say and do things we shouldn't. But the story of Joseph encourages us to recapture the dream we abandoned.

**2. Don't give up on your dream, though others don't support it:** Joseph's brothers said, "Look, this dreamer is coming ... let us now kill him." It's hard to keep your dream alive when others are trying to kill it. But when your dream comes from God it holds you, even when you're unable to hold it!

**3. Don't give up on your dream, though your journey is full of surprises:** Your dream will invite attack; don't let that discourage you! Attack is a sign of respect. It means you haven't been defeated. Five times we read: "The Lord was with Joseph." And He's with you too!

**4. Don't give up on your dream, though it takes a lifetime to fulfil:** Twenty-three years passed before Joseph's dream was fulfilled, but in the end he ruled his family, was reconciled with his brothers, and saved the nation. You never know what God's timetable will look like. The important thing to remember is never give up on your dream!

**Conclusion:** Joseph is one of God's heroes... The heroes of the Bible were powerful, but they weren't perfect. They were chastised, but never discarded. That should encourage you to believe that you too can be used by God. The Apostle Paul freely admitted that he fell far short of his goal, yet the light that shone from his earthen vessel still illuminates our walk two millennia later. A perfect word through imperfect vessels. That's 'the high calling of God,' and it's through ordinary people like us that He fulfils it. Marvellous!

**Hebrews 11:34** *"Out of weakness [they] were made strong".*

God's heroes were strengthened through struggle. Don't judge them by a weak moment; judge them by the entirety of their lives. The dent in their armour didn't affect their performance on the battlefield. Why does God use such people? Because:

**A.** 2 Cor 12:9 His "strength is made perfect in weakness" ;

**B.** Eph 3:20 He's not limited by our limitations;

**C.** 1 Cor 1:27 He uses what's available.

**Mt 21:42** *"The stone which the builders rejected ... is become the head of the corner this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes".*

Jesus concluded that the rejection of men was "the Lord's doing." Joseph did too. After being betrayed by his family, he said: *"You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good".*

Can you say that too? Instead of obsessing over what others do to you, can you see what God's doing for you? He orchestrates what the enemy does and makes it accomplish His purposes in your life.

© Sheep Music 2006-04-04