

“You’ve Got to Have a Dream”

Text: Hebrews 11:1

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Illustration of God’s plan for my life!

Pray!

We have started a new series called “Achieving Through Believing” and the first step in doing this is to get a dream for your life. It’s stretching the imagination or visualizing the invisible or creating a dream.

Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and being certain of what we do not see.” The Amplified version says, “Faith is perceiving as real what is not revealed to the senses.”

- Faith starts with the way you see things, it starts with your imagination and your perception.

Your imagination is a God-given ability.

- Einstein said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge.”
- Napoleon said, “Imagination rules the world.”

There’s tremendous power in your dreams and in your imagination and in your creativity. Everybody needs a dream for life. It is psychologically healthy. You need a dream. If you don’t have a dream you’re not really living; you’re just existing. Without it you’re not going to go too far in life.

What is your dream for life? Kids have a tremendous capacity to imagine and dream. But why is it when we become adults we lose the vision? The older we get, the more we lose our capacity to dream. What is it that causes us to give up on our goals and to give up on the things that stretch our faith?

This morning we’re going to look at potential dream busters (who and what can reduce your vision) and then how to build your dream.

FIVE POTENTIAL DREAMBUSTERS

1. Your family is a potential dreambuster.

- A. Genesis 37, the example of Joseph. Joseph was a really big thinker. He was number 10 of twelve brothers. Yet he said, “*I’ve had this dream. One day you’re going to bow down to me and I’m going to rule over everybody.*” Right! Sure. Joseph was kind of the Rodney Dangerfield of his family. He couldn’t get any respect. Sometimes when you’ve got a dream the best thing to do is just keep quiet about it

around those people who aren't going to be a part of the solution. They're just going to be critics. The brothers come to him and say, "Who do you think you are, Joseph? We know you're just a kid in this family!"

- B. Some of you have experienced that reaction with brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers. You've got a great plan, "Mom, Dad. This is what I'm going to do..." And they say, "Oh...sure!" They deflate your dream. You want approval but the reaction is thumbs down.
- C. Who in your life deflates your dream? Father? Mother? Wife? Husband? Who is it that says, "You could never do that!" Families can be dreambusters.

2. Friends can be dreambusters.

- A. In Mark 5 we have the story of Jairus, a man who had a sick daughter. He came to Jesus and said, "*Jesus would you heal her?*" While Jesus was walking to the house, it says in vs. 35, "*While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus (they were his friends, they came from his house) and they said, 'Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher any more.'*" They said, '*Jairus, we know you've got a dream. We know that your desire is for your daughter to be healed but she's dead. It's hopeless. Why bother?*'"
 - 1. I like what Jesus did in vs. 36, "*Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, 'Don't be afraid just believe.'*" Jairus ignored his friends and his daughter was brought back to life and was made well.
 - 2. Sometimes you have to ignore your friends. They're going to say, "Why bother? Why put forth the effort?"
- B. It's important to choose your friends carefully. You can't soar with the eagles if you're running with the turkeys. You've got to know who the people are around you.
 - 1. The Bible says, "*The one who walks with the wise is wise.*"
 - Illustration.

3. Fatigue

- A. Sometimes we're just too tired. We get so busy that we don't have time for long range planning. You can get so tired that you lose your interest and your vision starts to shrink and you get burned out and you settle for second best.
- B. 1 Kings 19 is the story of Elijah. Elijah had just had a tremendous experience with the Lord in the God contest up on Mount Carmel. After it's over, he hears that Queen Jezebel is trying to kill him. So he runs across the desert. He's physically drained, emotionally exhausted, and emotionally he's a washout. He runs and hides in a cave. And has a pity party. "Poor me! I'm the only one left. I'm going

to throw in the towel. Take my life. Let's get it over with. I'm tired of living. Let's just settle it now!" He's so tired he gives up on his dream.

C. I love God's antidote. In 19:5, Elijah had fallen asleep under a tree. *"The angel touched him and said, 'Get up and eat.'" He looked around and there was a cake of bread baked by some hot coals. And he ate and drank and lay back down and went to sleep again. The angel came a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat some more. The journey is too much for you."*

1. God's antidote to Elijah's depression was eat, sleep, eat, sleep. Sometimes it's amazing how much better things look after a good night's rest. A lot of times you just get tired. Get some rest and don't give up on your dream.
2. You never make a major decision when you're depressed or tired. Procrastination is okay in this instance. Put it off.

4. Failure is a dreambuster.

- A. Joshua 7 is where Joshua had led the children of Israel into the promised land. Everywhere they went they were winning battles. They were rolling over the Canaanites. Then they got a little cocky and somebody had committed some sin in the camp and they went out and tried to take over a little village of Ai with about 3000 people. They said, *"No problem. We'll just roll over them like the others."* They went out and fell flat on their face.
- B. Joshua comes back, falls on his face and starts crying out to the Lord in ch. 7, *"God! What in the world are you doing? You bring us all the way out of Egypt, across the Red Sea, across the desert, into the promised land. We're winning all these battles and then all of a sudden, one little enemy causes us to be a failure."* God comes to him and says in vs. 10, *"Stand up! Take this like a man. What are you doing on your face? Get up and go correct the problem."* Failure is not final unless you choose it to be.
- C. Was Joshua doing the wrong thing? No, they were doing what God said – Take over the land. Often in your dream, you'll be doing the right thing but you may be doing it in the wrong way. You don't give up on your dream; you just try a new approach.

5. Fear can be a dreambuster.

- A. Numbers 13 is the story of the children of Israel going into the Promised land for the first time. In vs. 1 the Lord said to Moses, *"Send in some men to explore the land."* Vs. 18, He said, *"Go and see what the land is like."* See what the people are like and find out all you can. They sent these twelve spies into the promised land and the spies came back and gave a report. It was a majority report which was wrong. The majority is not always right. There was a minority report which was positive. Vs. 26 says they came back to Moses. They reported to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land.

“Look at this! It really is a tremendous land of abundance.” Then they gave Moses this account, *“We went into the land where you sent us and it does flow with milk and honey.”* It’s great! Here’s the fruit. In v. 28 they said the wrong word, *“but the people who live there are powerful and the cities are fortified and very large.”* What they were saying was, *“This is a tremendous opportunity but there are problems.”*

- B. They made a fatal mistake that will kill more dreams than almost anything. Never confuse the dreaming phase in your life with the problem-solving phase. Make the decision and then you go and solve the problems.
- C. If you wait for perfect conditions how many things will get done in life? Every good idea has problems. If it doesn’t have any problems it’s probably a bad idea. It’s too easy. Never say no to a great idea just because it’s got problems with it. Don’t confuse the problem-solving with the decision-making or the dreaming because you’ll give into fear.

A couple things to note:

- 1. It doesn’t cost anything to dream. That’s what’s exciting about it.
- 2. Everything that is now possible was at one time impossible. Somebody dared to imagine it, to dream.

HOW TO BUILD YOUR DREAM

1. Pray for wisdom.

- A. James 1:5, *“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God.”*
- B. Lord, what is Your will, Your plan? What do you want me to do?

2. Stretch your imagination.

- A. Ephesians 3:20, *“He (God) is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us.”*
- B. God’s saying, *“Let the Holy Spirit expand your vision and force you to think in new ways.”* How do you do that?
 - 1. Read books, travel, meet creative people and read Christian biographies. Ask, “What could God do in my life if I let Him?”

3. Establish a goal.

- A. Philippians 3 is where Paul says that he presses toward the mark. He set his goal for the high calling of Christ. You focus your vision. You have a goal. You need to write it down with a date on it. If it’s not written down, it’s not a clear goal. It needs to be specific. What are goals? Simply statements of faith. I can’t think of anything that helps people more in a personal way than to establish some goals for their life. They’re acting in faith.

4. Visualize the results.

- A. *"Faith is evidence of things not seen."* Get a picture in your mind, take a photograph, paint a picture, get something that you can imagine and see completed and you visualize in advance. What you see is what you get.

5. Commit your dream to God's care.

- A. Ps. 37, *"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Trust also in Him. He will do it."* Commit it to God. You say, "Lord, this is my desire. This is my dream. But I want to give it to You." Let God do a great work in your life.

PRAY!

What are you going to do with the rest of your life? What's God's dream for your life? Jeremiah 29:11 says, *"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. 'Plans to prosper you and not harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.'* I invite you to follow me in a prayer this morning. Say something like this in your heart, *"Lord, would You help stretch my imagination? Would You expand my vision? Would You help me to see my potential? Jesus Christ, as much as I know how, I open my life up to You and I ask You to come in and be the manager of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."* Maybe you've already prayed that prayer in the past and you'd say, *"Lord, I want to recommit myself to you this morning. Help me to find Your dream for my life. Help me not to be afraid. Help me to think in new ways, bigger ways than I've ever thought before."* Some of you say, *"Jesus Christ, I ask You to forgive me for the sins in my life including small thinking. Thank You for loving me and dying on the cross for me. Make me the kind of person that You want me to be. In Jesus' name. Amen!"*