



The Word at Work

God is good so... why don't things turn out as I expected?

Reading the Word

Key Scriptures: story of Joseph (Gen.37,39-50), Heb.11:13, 39

Key Points:

At times we can suffer from disappointment, when things don't turn out as we had hoped for, either on specific aims or just in how we feel generally about the direction of our life. But don't allow disappointment to stop you believing that God is good or that he wants to bless you and fulfil you.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick (Prov.13:12) but sometimes God doesn't allow us to fulfil our dreams straight away because he knows we are not ready – he defers the dream not because he is bad but because he is good. God does not want to endlessly frustrate you but get you ready for your calling.

Some people deal with disappointment by no longer daring to dream, but:

God is good so keep dreaming.

The following will help you in the pursuit of your dreams without letting go of the truth that **God is good and wants to bless you.**

1. State your dream

- Some people keep their dreams locked up inside them because they are afraid of what people may say. Be honest about your dreams with the people close to you who can help you.

2. Hold on to the dream

- Like Joseph, you will face disappointments, setbacks, opposition, detours, misunderstanding etc. so determine that you are going to hold on to your dream no matter what.

3. Make your plans but let God determine how the dream is fulfilled

- Don't just dream; plan what you need to do to fulfil the dream; be real and be practical about it.
- Don't try to write in all the small print. Let God determine how it is fulfilled; if you have fixed ideas about how it must be then you may not realise that you are actually fulfilling it.
- *A man plans his course but God determines his steps* (Prov.16:9).

4. Discover the bigger dream

- Joseph found himself fulfilling his own dream when he was serving another's dream.
- God's dream is called his Kingdom. Serve His dream and you will find yourself fulfilling your own.
- It is not just about your worldly ambitions but about His eternal Kingdom.

5. Love God more than the dream

- Even if your dream is not fully realised, keep loving God with all your heart.
- *Some did not receive all that God had promised and yet by faith were able to welcome it from a distance* (Heb.11:13,39) – you realise the dream in part by the faithful pursuit of it.
- Paul's overriding ambition was just to know Christ, love him, become like him etc.(Phil.3)

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

Why is it important to dream and how can we deal with disappointment?

To Do:

Keep pursuing your dream!

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