Pt. 3 – Don’t Give Up on Your Dreams

**Reading for Worship Guide – Genesis 45: 4-7**

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<td>Proverbs Ch. 20; Genesis 37: 1 – 38: 30; Nehemiah 2: 11-17</td>
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**JOSEPH**

“DON’T GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS!”

There were times when you believed you knew what you were to accomplish with your life and the dream you had seem crystal clear. But the time between the birth of your dream and its realization seemed to drag on and on. Then came the times when things did not go as you expected. You experienced doubt, adversity, changes and surprises. You, in fact wanted to give up on your dreams.

God has sent me here to tell you **“DON’T GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS!”**

1. **Even if You Didn’t Start Off Well**

*Base on John Maxwell’s book, Running with the Giants.*
a. Dreams often generate more enthusiasm than wisdom – Jacob made mistakes.
   
   i. Jacob tattled on his brothers. (Genesis 37: 2)
   
   ii. Jacob was premature and arrogant in sharing his dream with his brothers. (Genesis 37: 5-8)
   
   iii. Jacob was premature and arrogant in sharing his dream with his father. (Genesis 37:9-11)

   1. Hundreds of years later, Nehemiah concealed God’s plan to repair the walls of Jerusalem until the proper time.

   2. He planned and formulated the dream without telling anyone what God had put it in his heart to do. (Nehemiah 2: 11-17)

b. Making mistakes is no reason to give up on your dreams.
   
   i. God does not use you when you feel you’re prepared.

   ii. Jacob thought he was prepared and his pride hindered him.

   iii. God uses you when God needs you and you’re yielded to God.

c. Recapture the dream you abandoned and once again claim it as your own.

   “DON’T GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS!”

2. **Even If Your Family & Friends Don’t Support It**

   a. Joseph’s father rebuked him for his dream. (Genesis 37: 10)

*Base on John Maxwell’s book, Running with the Giants.*
b. Joseph’s brothers desired to kill him for his dream.  
   (Genesis 37: 19-20)

c. It’s very difficult to retain your dream when your family and friends want you to let it go.
   
   i. Others may not see what has been revealed to you or hear from the God who has spoken into you.

   ii. But when your dream comes from God, the dream holds you when you feel unable to hold it!

   “DON’T GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS!”

3. **Even If Your Journey is Full of Surprises**

   a. Just because things don’t go as planned, that’s no reason to give up.

   b. Joseph lived through many surprises:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Misunderstood by his family</th>
<th>Give up?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sold into slavery by his brothers</td>
<td>Give up?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in a strange country far from home</td>
<td>Give up?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Given favor in Potiphar’s house</td>
<td>Go on!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrongly accused by Potiphar’s wife</td>
<td>Give up?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrown into prison</td>
<td>Give up?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put in charge of all the prisoners</td>
<td>Go on!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgotten by the chief butler</td>
<td>Give up?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remained in prison two years</td>
<td>Give up?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreted Pharaoh’s dream</td>
<td>Go on!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Became second in command of Egypt</td>
<td>Go on!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. **John 10: 4** – “… [Jesus] goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.”

*Base on John Maxwell’s book, Running with the Giants.*
i. The Shepherd goes before us.

ii. God is in every tomorrow.

iii. God is always with you!

   d. Romans 8: 28 – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”
      i. God is with you working on your behalf in all circumstances.
      ii. When God puts a dream inside you, He has already gone before you!
          1. God knows what you’re going to face.
          2. He has already worked it out.

   “DON’T GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS!”

4. Even if it Takes a Long Time to Realize It

   a. Twenty-three years passed from the time Joseph had the dream until it was fulfilled.
      i. The most difficult time of a journey is when you’re in the middle.
         1. Too far in to turn back
         2. Too far from the end to see the destination
      b. In the end, Joseph ruled his family, was reconciled with his brothers, and saved the nation of Israel.
      c. We never know what God’s timetable is.

5. Joseph’s words of encouragement

   a. God is always with you!
   b. Develop yourself during the down times!
   c. Realize self promotion can’t replace divine promotion!
   d. A dream realized is sweeter than you can ever imagine!

Base on John Maxwell’s book, Running with the Giants.
“NEVER GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS!”

Base on John Maxwell’s book, Running with the Giants.