

The Dream and the Contradiction

Part one of the series, "Made for Greatness"

Sunday, September 4, 2022 | Pastor Alfredo Canencia, Jr.

God gives each of us dreams and a purpose for our lives.

"Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, 'Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.' ⁸His brothers said to him, 'Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?' So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. ⁹Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, 'Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.' ¹⁰But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, 'What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?' ¹¹And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind." (Genesis 37:5-11 ESV)

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5 ESV)

Contradictions are a part of the journey on how God shapes us for our future.

"...So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams.' ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, 'Let us not take his life.' ²²And Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him'..." (Genesis 37:17-22 ESV)

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (Romans 3:23 ESV)

Dreams are meant to point us to God's promise and destiny.

"Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers listened to him. ²⁸Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt... ³⁶Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard." (Genesis 37:26-28, 36 ESV)

"I will never leave you nor forsake you.' ⁶So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'... ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:5-6, 8 ESV)