

LESSON ESSENTIALS

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND WORLDVIEW

LESSON 1: IDENTIFYING GOALS

The lesson will help you gauge the importance of every choice that you make. After all, with God there are no coincidences. It will encourage you to examine your life's dreams and weigh them on God's balance.

Chasing lofty dreams can sometimes be a very frustrating experience. Get ready to hand over those ambitions to God and give Him a chance to redefine your dreams as you go through this lesson.

We all have dreams that we can't wait to realise. But not every dream is of God. Read on to know how Moses learned the art of surrender.

Wouldn't you rather look at your dreams through God's perfect sight than your own sinful, broken vision?

'By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.'

Hebrews 11:24-37

Ask a celebrity to comment on a certain achievement, and he's likely to tell you, 'It's a dream come true.' As often as we might hear this sentiment, it is probably the truth. After all, we all dream. In fact, right from a young age, we're encouraged to dream 'big.' Sometimes, the bigger the dream we have for our lives the more respect others ascribe to us.

Most of us dream of achievement and the rewards that ensue. We dream of doing something great that will in the end, give us a comfortable life – financial wealth, a lavish home, respect in the community, successful children. That may sound like a positive goal benign ambition, but it's always good to let God, the giver of life and all things good have His say. After all, won't 'He who knit (you) in (your) mother's womb (Psalm 139:13), also have 'plans to give you a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11)? Wouldn't you rather look at your dreams through God's eyes, than through your own sinful, broken vision?

This is not to say that our God does not want us to be happy and is just waiting for a chance to thwart our plans and ambitions. He often places a dream in our hearts that is in line with His will for us. But sometimes, He might have a plan for our lives that's far more awesome than what we might be dreaming of, just like He did for Moses in the Bible.

Moses prioritised God's plan to save Israel before his own dream of a cushy life in Pharaoh's palace. Hebrews 11:24-27 tells us, 'By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.'

Giving up his place as son of the Princess of Egypt would mean either running away from home, or death. Because Moses gave up his selfish dream, he had to go through 40 years of waiting in the wilderness, before God could use him to fulfil his real calling. Most of us today would just laud Moses for his faith, and conveniently move on saying that he was just way out of our league. But those who do take the road less travelled like this Biblical hero find out

that God's dream for their lives is bigger and more beautiful than their own.

When we align our perspective with God's, He wastes no time in changing our priorities. Moses found a joy in serving as a shepherd, that he probably didn't as a prince. Agreed, the 40 year wait and the subsequent years in the wilderness were far from easy. But God used that time to groom Moses into a leader and through him achieve a purpose that changed the course of history. All it took was willingness on Moses' part to trade his dream for God's. Are you ready to follow in his footsteps and let God have His way in your life? You might be on your way to creating history once again.

IN REVIEW

- Right from childhood, we are encouraged to dream big, so we can't be blamed for spending our lives in the pursuit of a lucrative job and a comfortable life. But our dreams might not always correspond with God's.
- That does not mean that God keeps us from happiness, waiting to deprive you of the good things of life. But it is best to find out from Him what His plan is for our lives.
- Moses, a Biblical hero, did just that. For someone who had everything he desired and the promise of an easy life, Moses chose to abandon the comfort of the palace to chase God's dream for his life. Hebrews 11:24-37 tells us, 'By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.' And though that choice meant years of waiting and wandering, the outcome of his obedience changed the course of history. Are you ready to surrender your dreams to God and follow in Moses' footsteps?

When we align our perspective with God's He wastes no time in changing our priorities.

Wouldn't you rather live for things that matter eternally, rather than only your dreams which will pass away when you do?

Look for ways that God is changing your priorities in life today.

HAVE YOUR SAY

- If you were in Moses' place, would you leave the palace and head to the wilderness? Why/why not?

- To what extent are you willing to go to realise a dream? Contrast your answer with Moses' approach?

- What's the one dream that you've been chasing for a while now? Are you depending on God to know His will in the matter?

- What's more important for you
 - a. To be in God's will, even if that means not having your way?
 - b. To somehow convince God to give you what you want?

- What are your dreams to fulfil God's purpose in your life and in this world?

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