

The Gap In-between

Sermon Series: Joseph: When Dreams Are Deferred

Genesis 39:1-23

THE BUMPY ROAD TOWARDS THE DREAM

The secret in surviving the gap between what is and what could be...

- 1 **Faith:** Focus on your relationship with God, not your present circumstance. (vs.1-5)
- 2 **Preparation:** The practical side of a dream is just plain work (vs.6a)
- 3 **Integrity:** Regardless of the cost, say no and run (v.6b-19)
- 4 **Wisdom:** We can't control the waves but we can learn to surf. (vs. 20-23)

*The Gap In-between_Part 2... Message by Pastor Jesse E. - (10/21/12).
Sermon Series: Joseph: When Dreams Are Deferred*

REALife Application

QUICK REVIEW - Looking back over your sermon notes, which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

1. This week we saw Joseph's character go from arrogance to humility. Have you ever had a time in your life or a situation when God particularly got your attention regarding a harmful attitude, action, or perspective and really began to change it? If so, explain.
2. The centurion in Luke 7:1-10, like Joseph, found himself in a chaotic situation that humbled and moved him toward trusting God. As you read his story, what took place that caused the centurion to humbly trust God? What are some other ways he could have potentially responded?
3. When it comes to resisting temptation, most of us don't plan on messing up our lives. Unfortunately temptation works subtly at taking us step by step to entice us into sin. King David experienced both this and the adverse effects firsthand. As you read his story in 2 Samuel 11, identify how he failed to put into practice the five steps to protect our character from this week's sermon.
4. Finding out God has been trying to get our attention or realizing that we are falling into temptation can be quite humbling and frightening to admit. What hope and incentive do the following verses give us when this occurs?

Psalms 138:6

Proverbs 18:12

Isaiah 57:15

Matthew 18:14

James 4:6

5. Wouldn't it be great if we could just snap our fingers and have temptation disappear? Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way. Look over the following verses and identify some additional strategies that help us avoid and overcome temptation.

Psalms 119:11

Luke 22:40

James 4:7-8

Hebrews 2:17-18

1 John 1:8-2:2

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- ① _____: Focus on your _____ with God, not your present _____. (vs.1-5)

- ② _____: The _____ side of a dream is just plain _____. (vs.6a)

- ③ _____: Regardless of the cost, _____ and _____ (v.6b-19)

- ④ _____: We can't control the _____ but we can learn to _____. (vs. 20-23)

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