

**“God’s Dream” - Deuteronomy 34:1-12 – Rev. Jeffrey B. Childs**

Can you believe this is the last week of Mike Slaughter’s series *Dare to Dream*? The goal has been to get you in touch with God’s dream for you. Mike warned that there may be frustrations in the process of bringing that God-purpose to reality. You’ve had a dream and you feel there are setbacks in the journey. Please understand that any God-sized dream is not immediately fulfilled. It took Moses 40 years to finally get the people to the edge of the promised land and ready to enter it in the scripture reading from the end of Deuteronomy. Journeys of faith will have setbacks and frustrations. Today, what we want to focus on is what separates success from failure. What separates those who DO from those who DON’T?

There are two characteristics of those who are successful, and they are right here in this scripture. It says in Deuteronomy 34:7: *Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eyesight wasn’t impaired, that is the first characteristic. And the second is: and his vigor hadn’t diminished a bit.* Moses was successful in his vision because he had a sustaining vision. Too many of us get distracted in life. Why is the sustaining vision so critical? Proverbs 29:18 says, *where there is no vision, the people perish*. In other words, if you don’t keep your focus on that sustaining mission, then you will lack the discipline to complete it. It is absolutely essential. This is what separates success from failure, and those who DO from those who DON’T. We are to have a process of renewing that vision. When we look at Moses’ life, his burning bush started on a mountain. Now, we are at Mount Pisgah. When you study Moses’ life, you see that throughout his life, he would retreat to the mountains to receive that sustaining Word of God that would sustain his mission. Sometimes, he would go to the mountain for 40 days at a time. And you will also notice this with Jesus in the gospels. After a long day when he was exhausted from healing or doing teachings, Jesus would retreat to a mountain to sustain his vision so he could finish his mission. I don’t care how young or old you are, you must maintain a future focus. You must always look for God’s preferred future and pray about it continuously.

You need to remember who resources your mission. You don’t need to have all of the resources at the outset of your mission to accomplish what God is calling you to do. The resources will be given at the appointed time. When Moses set out with this whole city of people, and passed through the wilderness, he didn’t rent U-haul trucks, or figure out how much food they would need for 40 years—no, he stepped out in faith. The resources were provided one day at a time. How did they eat? When they got up in the morning, what happened? What was there on the ground? Manna! Food! Even when they were in the desert and didn’t have water, God was able to bring water from a rock. Here is what separates success from failure, and those who Do from those who DON’T. Successful people have a way of renewing and sustaining the vision so that it is not consumed, nor does it burn out.

Moses had all kinds of setbacks, and it wasn’t just Pharaoh, or the hostile armies that he would experience during those 40 years, it was his own people—the people he was trying to help. These were the people who would whine to him, “Oh Moses! Manna everyday! We’re tired of Manna, Moses! How about some meat? How about some chicken? Moses!

Moses! Moses!” Successful people are people who have a future focus and a dogged persistence. The Apostle Paul wrote, *it’s not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose.* (Philippians 3:12)

So Moses died and is buried across the Jordan River, and in the end no one remembers his burial place. It’s not about your legacy. It’s about God’s legacy. Jesus said this, just before he ascended into heaven, *All authority has been given to me in heaven and earth. Therefore go, and make disciples.* That is part of all of us, a part of all of our missions. We all have different parts in it, but go and make disciples. God said to Moses, *This is the land that I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I promised: ‘I will give it to your descendants.’* The most important mission all of us have is to make sure our children, our grandchildren and our future generations enter God’s place of promise. The people mourn Moses’ death, and then move on under new leadership. *Joshua, Nun’s son, was filled with wisdom because Moses had placed his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to Joshua, and they did exactly what the Lord commanded Moses.* Who are you investing in right now? Who are your Joshua’s? We are all called to be God-connectors, so who are the people right now, not only in your generation, but who are the Joshua’s of a future generation that you are connecting to God’s dream? Pass it on. Alleluia and Amen.

### **As Disciples on the Journey**

Rev. Jeffrey B. Childs 1/31/23

As disciples on the journey,  
May God keep us focused,  
That in our mind’s eye we might see,  
The Lord in whom we trust.

Moses stood upon Mount Pisgah,  
And saw the promised land.  
He did not reach that land he saw,  
But did what God had planned.

Joshua would lead them beyond,  
The Jordan to that place.  
Yet God and Moses shared a bond.  
They had met face to face.

It is the Lord God who calls us,  
Upon our earthly quest,  
That one day we’ll be with Jesus,  
For our eternal rest.