

# LEADERS ARE DREAMERS

*They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. (Gen. 37:19)*

This lesson applies some of the concepts about this story I have heard elsewhere to the role of leaders who are dreamers.

Do you have a dream? You need one. Dreams give hope. They display a powerful image of what life can be. We live by and progress by the image we have in our mind and spirit. Has your dream been shattered? Or even worse yet has your dream turned into a nightmare and then come true? For all of us dreamers, there is hope.

Joseph was a leader. He guided a powerful nation logistically and prophetically for several years in during a demanding period and subsequently saved millions of lives through his effective leadership. Joseph was a dreamer. All leaders must be dreamers. Many folks mock dreamers. Early in his life, Joseph was called sneeringly, “the dreamer.” Leaders dream. Some of his dreams were prophetic. He saw himself as a leader of men. Every leader must have this image inside of them before they can ever act on it (Judges 6:12). Joseph dreamed of using his considerable talents to do great things for God and his family. Joseph’s dreams enabled him to live with trust and hope. He was an original positive thinker. This attitude is something every leader can and must have in order to walk in the divinely-given success God wants every leader to have. Here are four lessons we can learn from a leader and dreamer about living in the kind of trust and hope that makes a real difference in the world around us:

**I. Leaders who are dreamers recognize the presence of God in their life.**

Joseph never viewed the “negative” things that happened in his life as a sign that God was no longer with him or that his dreams were never going to come true. He never gave up on God. In fact, everything that happened to him only pulled him closer to God. He continued to trust God.

Do you recognize the presence of God in your life? Do you believe he has a plan for you? In what ways do you recognize His presence and plan? If not, you need to dare to dream again.

**II. Leaders who are dreamers make the best of bad situations.**

No person or leader is perfect. We all make mistakes and fail at times. Joseph made some poor decisions and shared his dreams inappropriately. He was hated and sold into slavery. He was unjustly accused and placed in prison. Though forgotten, he never lost his hope. We couldn’t have blamed him if he had. But, he kept on making the best of every situation regardless of whatever happened to him. He was sold into slavery only to become the head servant. He was sent to prison and he took over the administration. He was brought before the king and became Pharaoh’s right-hand man.

Are you faced with troubles that bear down on you? If so, you need to dare to dream again. Keep hope alive by revisiting the dreams you have stopped thinking about. See them in a new context of where you are now and where you are heading.

**III. Leaders who are dreamers maintain their principles even when inconvenient.**

Joseph faced his biggest challenge when accosted by his master’s wife. He could have given all kinds of excuses to give in, but he was willing to do what was right, in spite of the consequences. Have you been mistreated? If so, you need to dare to dream again.

#### **IV. Leaders who are dreamers recognize God is in control.**

Joseph, when he was finally reunited with his brothers, said to them, “What you did to me you meant for bad, God used for good.” Joseph believed that ultimately God is in control, and that all things work together for good (Romans 8:28).

Have you wondered if God has deserted you in your present assignment, or if your life has any purpose at all? If so, you need to dare to dream again. If you are a leader you must also be an active dreamer.

It is my prayer that God will give you a new dream if you need one, that he will restore your dream if it has been shattered, and that he will give you courage if your dreams have turned to nightmares. Dare to dream again. If you have no dream, you are already dead. Dare to live the exciting life of leading others by the dream God has put inside of you for this time.