AMBITION COURAGE OPTIMISM

TEXT

TITLE Dare To Dream!

SCRIPTURE READING Joel 2:28 + Isaiah 43:18-19

DELIVERIES: Date Hour Place
F:BC 8/26-01 A.M. San Antonio, TX
Sardis 5/4/14 A.M. Winnfield, LA

Results and Comments: (XX+XX+) 38 letters Last sermon as Pastor PBC St Luke 10

BIBLIOGRAPHY
TO DREAM AGAIN

Joel 2:28 and Isaiah 43:18-19

Intro: To dare to dream—that is an absolute necessity if life is to go on with any degree of success or purpose. My own personal experience has taught me this truth. I have moved from one glorious dream to another. The only times I have moments of discouragement or unhappiness have been when I failed to move quickly from the fulfillment of one dream to the dreaming of a new one. To linger too long in the no-man's land that lies between dreams is to invite disaster.

It is a dangerous thing to fail to dream, whether it be an individual, a family, an institution or a church. And that is what I want to talk about today—about us as a church family daring to dream, as we call a new pastor.

Read the 118 year history of this great church. It is a history of moving from one dream to another. The fulfillment of each dream met the particular needs of a particular people at a particular time. Yet no sooner did one dream become a reality until the church dared to dream a new dream!

We must continue to “Dare to Dream” if we would continue to have an effective ministry and be blessed by God!

Joel 2:28 speaks of “Old men dreaming dreams and young men seeing visions.”

Isaiah 43:18-19 admonishes us, “Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder (dwell on) things of the past. Behold, I will do something new. Now it will spring forth: Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”
DARE TO DREAM!
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If We Dare To Dream:

I. WE MUST NOT DWELL ON THE PAST
   --Isaiah 43:18 “Do not . . . ponder (dwell on) things of the past.

1. Past Mistakes
   --Note: We have all made mistakes in the past. Because ours is “a
   God of a second chance” we need not dwell on our past mistakes.
   Paul speaks of being “knocked down but not knocked out.”
   Some of our past mistakes have a humorous side:
   - One mistake I made was not listening to Elizabeth . . .split pants
   - Failure to instruct properly a baptismal candidate . . .blond wig
   - Forgetting to bring tux shirt buttons and cuff links . . .Andrea H.
   - Not paying attention to my sermon notes . . .Edson 3/4 dangers

   Apply: We have all made mistakes far more serious than these. I have
   had to go to more than one person and say, “I was wrong, forgive me.”
   Others have come to me with these same words. And because we
   forgave and forgot and refused to dwell on our past mistakes, we were
   able to dare to “dream dreams.”

2. Past Victories
   --Galatians 6:14 “But may it never be that I would boast, except in
   the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ . . .”
   --Note: Not to dwell on the past does not mean that we are unmindful
   or unthankful for the past.

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1. The 1st Baptist Church
2. Constructing 1st Ch. Billy
3. Attendance 2X or 3X
4. Renovation

Illus: Russell Nomel-Tulsa

TV, Bus Ministry
Churches Center, Senior Adult
Sanctuary Building
Quail Valley, Glenn Mead

Mission fields
Mexico 4
TeamKID, Body Life
Center
If We Dare To Dream

I. WE MUST NOT DWELL ON THE PAST

II. WE MUST LIVE IN THE PRESENT

- Hebrews 3:13 "But exhort one another daily while it is called TODAY..."

- Note: "Yesterday is a canceled check, Tomorrow is a promissary note, Today is the only currency we have."

- The challenge and opportunity has never been greater:
  
  John 4:35 "Look on the fields for they are white for harvest."
  LB - "Look around you! Vast fields of human souls are ripening all around us, and are ready now for reaping."
  Illus: "Never Been a time when more people do not attend."

  "These are not problems; they are opportunities!"

III. WE MUST FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

- Philippians 3:13 "This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead."

1. Because There Are Decisions To Be Made

  - Deut. 30:19 (Moses) "I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore, choose life, that thou and thy seed may live!"

  - Note: The decisions to be made were clear and simple - "Life or death" - "Blessing or cursing."

  > We MUST choose! The decision is not optional. Life forces us to choose. The refusal to choose is itself a choice. HOW we choose is a decision we make.

  The decisions that rest before us today are the same as those in Moses’ day - "Life or Death," "Blessing or cursing." It is the simple choice to dream or die!

(1) The Decision TO Dream

- Illus: (Robert Dale, To Dream Again) "We don’t often see a ‘Condemned by Order of the City’ sign tacked to the front door of a church. But I saw such a sign on the big double doors of a southwestern old First Church. Beside the condemned sanctuary stood..."
a new, temporary metal building, housing church offices and a worship center.

The congregation had known for years the sanctuary was decaying. Discussions about the building's condition had been held periodically. But no decision had been made. Finally, the city took the situation in hand and declared the building unsafe for public use. The congregation couldn’t face its need for either renovating or removing the old sanctuary.

I couldn’t imagine what had brought Old First Church to such an impasse. When I asked a long-time member to explain the situation, he said sadly, ‘We couldn’t bring ourselves to change a thing in the old building. After all, that’s where dear old Dr. So-and-so preached back when he was a pastor.’ The memory of former days under the ministry of a well-known pastor paralyzed Old First Church. That’s nostalgia! Nostalgia is an exile mentality. It indicates a refusal to dare to dream.

(2) The Decision to Dream BIG

-Note: A healthy church lives out a healthy dream. But the size of a dream is crucial. What we expect from life is usually what we get.

-Illus: In Winnie-the-Pooh, Pooh and Piglet take an evening walk. For along time they walk in companionable silence. Finally, Piglet breaks the silence and asks, “When you wake up in the morning, Pooh, what’s the first thing you say to yourself?” “What’s for breakfast?” answers Pooh. “And what do you say, Piglet?”

“I say, I wonder what exciting thing is going to happen today?”

Small dreams yield meager results. A church can choose “breakfast dreams” or “excitement dreams.” At this juncture in our church’s life, it is time for us to dare to dream BIG-- to have “excitement dreams!”
If We Dare To Dream We Must Focus On The Future:

1. Because There Are Decisions To Be Made

2. Because There Are Dangers To Be Avoided
   - Proverbs 29:18a “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

1) Of Traveling Down A Dead-End Road
   - Note: Organizations, including churches, have a tendency to travel down a dead-end road. They can easily fall into a deadly cycle of *birth, growth, maturity, decline, and death.*
   The danger of traveling down this dead end road is avoided when we “Dare To Dream.”

2) Of Staying In the Wrong Rut
   - Illus: A favorite story of mine related to the gold rush days of 1849. As the numerous wagon trains left Saint Joseph, Missouri, for the trek across the praries already rutted by the tracks of earlier wagons, their eager occupants read this sobering message on a banner across the western end of the main street: “Choose your rut carefully. You may be in it all the way to California!”
   - Apply: There is nothing wrong with staying on a well traveled path IF it leads to the right destination. Dreaming again serves as a mid-course correction that avoids the danger of staying in the wrong rut.
   Churches, like the 49’ers have 3 choices they can make:
   - Blindly follow the old trail
   - Avoid traveling any trail ever traveled before
   - Blaze a new trail by DARING TO DREAM

3. Because There are Dreams To Be Realized
   - Hebrews 11:1a “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for” is paraphrased by Clarence Jordan in these words: “Now faith is the turning of dreams into deeds.”
   - JRM: “Dreams are the wings on which life soars.”

1) They Must Be “Kingdom Dreams”
   - Note: Jesus had a dream of God’s Kingdom 80 times gospels
   4 characteristics of a “Kingdom Dream:
   - Begins with Redemption
   - Envisions God’s Ruling
Conclusion:

Holman Hunt, the great artist, had a group of students on a hillside painting a landscape. There was an old barn with the shingles falling off on the side of a hill overlooking a valley. As the sun dropped out of sight, the sky looked as if God had emptied a rainbow on the clouds.

Hunt cried out to the students: "PAINT THE SUNSET! PAINT THE SUNSET!"

As he made his way around to check their work, he discovered his best student still working on the landscape.

Hunt paused, shook his head sadly, and said: "Son, it won’t be light long. You haven’t time for both shingles and sunsets—YOU MUST CHOOSE!"

In everyone of our lives, there is less daylight left in which we can “paint the sunset” than ever before. Our Heavenly Father says to you and to me, “It won’t be light long. You haven’t time for both shingles and sunsets—YOU MUST CHOOSE!” And choose we must. We must choose to “DARE TO DREAM!”
DARE TO DREAM
Joel 2:28 and Isaiah 43:18-19
Sardis Baptist Church
May 4 2014

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II. WE MUST LIVE IN THE PRESENT - Hebrews 3:13

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III. WE MUST FOCUS ON THE FUTURE - Philippians 3:13

   1. Because There Are Decisions To Be Made - Deut. 30:19

      ⇒ The refusal to choose is itself a choice.
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(2) The Decision To Dream BIG

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2. Because There Are Dangers To Be Avoided - Proverbs 29:18a

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(2) Of Staying In the Wrong Rut
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(1) They Must Be “Kingdom Dreams”

(2) How Can We Make Our Dreams Come True?
> Dream Together
> Put Your Dream Into a Plan
> Establish Priorities
> State Your Dream Specifically
> Distribute Responsibility

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