

Sermon Outline - Sun, January 17th, 2021 – Sacred Dreaming
(Genesis 28:10-22; Acts 2:14-21)

Overview – January is Vision Month and this year we are working from the theme Sacred Dreaming. We started by looking at the Dreams of the Wise Men who came to see Baby Jesus and last week we leaned into the story of Jacob and his dream at Bethel. Our core points were – you don't have to be all together for God to give you a vision, that sometimes vision comes when we lean into the hard places, and the need for quiet dreamspace where God can speak. This Sunday as we are reminded of the legacy of Dr. King we turn again to the story of Jacob.

Story Exegesis

- Jacob is the grandson of Abraham who God promised to make a “father to the nations” This vision has come to pass w/ Jews, Christians & Muslims all claiming Abraham.
- In Jacob's dream he is promised that God will continue in him the promise that he made to his grandfather and that “your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed^[a] in you and in your offspring”
- Theme continues in Acts. The apostles come together waiting for direction from God
- Vision vs. Calling – Where you are going. Your role in getting there.****

Key Points – How Can I When My Dream Is God-Given

1. God's vision includes you but is always bigger than you – Your healing and restoration may be part of the vision but if it is from God it will flow beyond you and be bigger than what you could imagine on your own. If you can pull it off on your own then it is not God.
2. God's vision may start with an individual, but it flows to the rest of their family – This can be blood or chosen family. Enacting the vision should open deeper relationships and collaboration, if not, you have the wrong vision or you are not connected to the right folks.
3. God's dreams may start in one tribe or group but it flows far beyond that group
 - a. In the Acts piece it is clear that God's visions will break out of the categories of who is going to get visions. Young people, including daughters, slaves

This month we have seen the danger of warped visions. When folks think God wants one group to be on top or are too focused on one individual we end up with perverse visions. Our community is called to follow a radical vision that is bigger than any one us, calls us all to work together and to create benefit beyond our community and even beyond our time in history.

Core Questions –

1. When you think about Vision are you only thinking about yourself or on a bigger scale?
2. Who is the family/community with whom you are called to realize God's dream? Are you in relationship and conversation with those folks?
3. As you think about this community – what tribes/groups are not represented in our community that we should be connecting with? As a multi-racial community – what is our responsibility to create justice beyond our community?