

Sermon Outline - Sun, January 24th, 2021 – The Dream and the Hope of the Slave
(Romans 4:3,16-21 ; Hebrews 11:1-3;12:1)

Overview – Last month we worked from the theme Sacred Dreaming and now we bring that idea into our February celebration of Black history Month with the theme “The Dream and the Hope of the Slave.” This quote comes from the Maya Angelou poem *Still I Rise*. We will focus on the stories of Harriet Tubman and Richard Allen who were both prophets that came after the Bible was written.

Story Exegesis

- Harriet Tubman was born around 1820 in Dorchester County Maryland w/8 siblings
- Born into slavery – an unjust system where Black people were forced to work, were separated from their families and experienced a lot of violence from slave owners
- She had her first job at 5 years old and another job at 8 years
- From a young age she wanted to see her family stay together and cared about others
- At 12 years old she saw an overseer about to throw a heavy weight at someone else so she jumped in front to protect the other person and got hit in the head herself.
- Her injury led to migraines (bad headaches), light sensitivity and narcolepsy – caused her to have deep sleeps where God spoke to her in her dreams telling her what to do
- In 1849 when she was almost 30, her brothers were going to be sold so she decided to escape. Her brothers gave up and went back but she went forward and made it to freedom
- She decided that it wasn't enough for her to be free she wanted to help her family and friends so she established The Underground Railroad taking about 70 people to freedom.
- She also fought in the Civil War to end slavery and help all Black people be free

Key Points – God's Vision Unfolds on Journey

1. **Someone dreamed of you** – Harriet didn't just want for herself to be free but for all people to be free. Even though she didn't know you, she wanted you to be free. There are people that have dreamed of you and tried to make the world better for you.
2. **Their struggle and sacrifice made your life possible** – They didn't just dream. They took action and sometimes that action put them in danger. Sometimes they had to work really hard or be very courageous so that your life could be better.
3. **It is your job to dream of and create a better future for the next generation** – Right now you are helping to make the world what it will be for future generations. Children not born yet and people you will never get to meet in person.

This month we remember our ancestors so we can be grateful for what they did for us, and to think about what we will do to become good ancestors so that future generations.

Core Questions –

1. Who dreamed of you? How have their dreams given you inspiration and access to things they never could have had?
2. In what ways have others dreams for you at times been limiting? Are there some of their hopes that have constricted your possibilities? How can you honor them and go bigger?
3. What are your hopes for the next generation? How are you laying the ground so they have possibilities that at least match and hopefully exceed what you have?