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OUT OF THE CAVE

LESSON 4 “DREAM AGAIN”

“He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” ¹⁵ The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.” 1 Kings 19:14-16 (NIV)

Elijah had lost his ability to see things clearly. He needed God’s perspective. After the Lord tended to his physical needs, he gave that perspective to him. Even though Elijah had retreated to a cave, God met him there and demonstrated in a powerful way that he was still in control, still all-powerful, and still the same God whom Elijah had been serving all along.

The Power of Purpose

1. We tend to look at **failure** and think we are **disqualified** from ever influencing others again. But that is not how God sees it.

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“We are not disqualified or bad people trying to be good. We are holy, righteous, and redeemed. Sometimes, we spend more time on what we used to be and not who we are now.” ~ Bart Millard

2. God reminded Elijah about **his calling** and told him to “go back the way you came.”

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- A. He wanted Elijah to go back to that place where he **committed** to serve the **Lord**.

God’s desire for you, and really for every discouraged and depressed person, is to send them back to that place where they have influence and to remind ourselves of our calling, because its one of the greatest ways to get you out of the cave of depression.

The power of Visions and Dreams

Without a dream, a revelation, or a purpose, we perish.

1. If you don't have a **clear vision** for your life, you will think that it **doesn't matter** how you live.

Proverbs 29:18b (KJV) *"Where there is no vision, the people perish....."*

Proverbs 29:18b (NIV) *"Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint;...."*

- A. When you are idle- when you don't have purpose- you make **bad choices**.

David and Bathsheba - *"In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful. and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite."* **2 Samuel 11:1-3 (NIV)**

Psalms 126:1-2 (NIV) *"When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. ² Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."*

2. The quickest ways to defeat depression is to start serving the **needs of other people**.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV) *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*

- A. You must dare to **dream** again and do something that calls you to **act**.

There are FIVE things you can do that will help you get a dream from God:

Habakkuk 2:1-3 (GNT) *"I will climb to my watchtower and wait to see what the LORD will tell me to say and what answer he will give to my complaint. ² The LORD gave me this answer: "Write down clearly on tablets what I reveal to you, so that it can be read at a glance. ³ Put it in writing, because it is not yet time for it to come true. But the time is coming quickly, and what I show you will come true. It may seem slow in coming, but wait for it; it will certainly take place, and it will not be delayed."*

1. Get **alone with God**. – You're going to have to turn down the world's volume, phones, ipads, TV, and whatever tends to still your time away from God.

Psalms 46:10a (NIV) *"He says, "Be still, and know that I am God."*

2. Make a **fresh commitment** to God's Word.

Habakkuk 2:1b (GNT) "I will climb to my watchtower and wait to see what the LORD will tell me to say."

3. Write down a **God-size dream**.

Habakkuk 2:2 (GNT) "The LORD gave me this answer: "Write down clearly on tablets what I reveal to you, so that it can be read at a glance"

A God size dream is not a small dream.

4. Wake up and **do something**.

Habakkuk 2:3c (GNT) "Put it in writing, because it is not yet time for it to come true. But the time is coming quickly, and what I show you will come true. It may seem slow in coming."

James 2:17 (NIV) n the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

5. Don't give up on **your dream**.

Habakkuk 2:3d "But wait for it; it will certainly take place, and it will not be delayed."

It takes great endurance to see your dream fulfilled. Getting a dream is the easy part. . .but believing God for it and persevering is what is so important.