

There is Joy in the Land

Introduction:

- Roller Coaster, ups and downs, prophetic. (60 days exactly, mystery mine)
- Short version of the The Lords Chapel process up to now
- Not talking about money, instead focus on joy Be a person of substance who gives from your substance, if we are all doing that, there's no problem. Focus on joy.
- Miracle has just begun
- Get excited and inspired

We are being invited into a great adventure as co-laborers with Christ and with Him there is fullness of joy!

- Prayer

Where is our joy? Where do we find it?

Psalms 16:11 (ESV) You make known to me the path of life; **in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

- Revelation
- His presence = fullness of joy, there is no other source
- At your right hand ... on mission with Him

1 Chronicles 16:27 (MSG) Splendor and majesty flow out of him, strength and **joy fill his place.**

- Again, we see joy fills his place. Wherever He is, there, in that place joy is found.
- To sum it up... His presence is everything

So before we talk about anything related to the adventure he's calling us into, I just need to say to us. It all starts and ends with being in His presence. Outside of His presence there is fullness of stress, fullness of striving, fullness of anxiety ... but in His presence there is what?

FULLNESS OF JOY!

The Land of your Dreams

One of the most joyful things we can do, leading up to the move, is to sit in His presence and let our dreams run wild. Let our sanctified imagination explode with possibilities. What might God call you personally into? Where might he take us as church? What is he going to do in that community as a result of us being there. What does it look like to expand the Kingdom of God in that region of our city?

- New house, excitement and anticipation, the unknown.

I want to encourage us to to dream big about what the Lord might do, as he calls us into this new season. I don't want to be found guilty of asking too little of our Mighty God. Big Answers sometimes require big prayers.

“WE NEED DREAMERS WHO WILL PARTNER WITH HEAVEN AND ALLOW THE DREAMS OF GOD FOR THEIR CITIES, REGIONS, CHURCHES, INDUSTRIES AND ENTERPRISES TO FLOW THROUGH THEM LIKE NEVER BEFORE. THE DREAMS GOD HAS PLACED INSIDE OF US OPERATE LIKE SEEDS OF HOPE; WHEN PLANTED IN THE EARTH THROUGH WISDOM, THEY GROW AND RELEASE HIS REDEMPITIVE PURPOSES.

-JEREMY RIDDLE, THE RESET

Sanctified and Un-sanctified Dreams

Your dreams are either from God or they are not. Oversimplified maybe, but true. The question to ask yourself when you start this journey is ... “Where was this dream birthed from?”

Sanctified dreams will always be birthed out of intimacy with the father and a completely surrendered and unified connection to the Holy Spirit. Remember ... the key is always staying in His presence.

Un-sanctified dreams will always be birthed out of a spirit of orphanhood. A lack of intimacy with God. They will stink of self-centered ambition that is disconnected from the heart and will of God. **Oh Holy Spirit protect us from this!**

Your dreams can only ever be as healthy as your level of whole-hearted surrender, intimacy and communion with God. Our dreams must come from a place of abiding worship.

So that’s how we filter our dreams and now I want to say to you. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. You were created for a time such as this. If you’re still on this earth, he has a plan and a purpose for you.

You were not born a blank slate, God created you with very specific purposes and passions. He gave you specific giftings. And as we take this new land, he wants to use you! Dream big about how God might use you!

Home work: start to talk to the Lord about all this and write down what he reveals. Ask the Holy Spirit to weed out the un-sanctified stuff and just see how God might use you. Bring those next Sunday and as we do the offering, with your money also put those God-ordained dreams in the box.

Ok, so God gives you the dream and the vision ... what next? We obey! Easy!

The Wedding at Cana:

John 2:6-10 (ESV) 6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.

Where do you find yourself in this story? Read it again.

The servants were in his presence, they obeyed him and they knew the miracle before anyone else at the wedding. That’s the sort of thing that God is calling us all into.

John 2:7-8 (MSG) Jesus ordered the servants, "Fill the pots with water." And they filled them to the brim. 8 "Now fill your pitchers and take them to the host," **Jesus said, and they did.**

Broken record, but it’s all about staying in His presence. They were near him, they obeyed him and they saw the miracle first.

Our part vs. His part

The pressure is off, the only thing required is obedience.

God does all the heavy lifting. He’s the miracle worker. The servants had nothing to do with the actual turning of water into wine, but they got to be the ones to serve it to the people. Lord use us in that way!

[TO HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST] MEANS, OF COURSE, TRYING TO DO ALL THAT HE SAYS. THERE WOULD BE NO SENSE IN SAYING YOU TRUSTED A PERSON IF YOU WOULD NOT TAKE HIS ADVICE. THUS IF YOU HAVE REALLY HANDED YOURSELF OVER TO HIM, IT MUST FOLLOW THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO OBEY HIM. BUT TRYING IN A NEW WAY, A LESS WORRIED WAY. NOT DOING THESE THINGS IN ORDER TO BE SAVED, BUT BECAUSE HE HAS BEGUN TO SAVE YOU ALREADY. NOT HOPING TO GET TO HEAVEN AS A REWARD FOR YOUR ACTIONS, BUT INEVITABLY WANTING TO ACT IN A CERTAIN WAY BECAUSE A FIRST FAINT GLEAM OF HEAVEN IS ALREADY INSIDE YOU.

C.S. LEWIS

New Vineyards, New Wine

I've done some of this dreaming and out of obedience I want to share some of what the Lord has spoken to me with you. He gave me this picture of a new vineyard (new land) and as he showed me that picture I heard him say ... "A new vineyard always produces new wine"

Isaiah 43:18-19 (ESV) "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19 (MSG) Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.

I don't have a lot of clarity on the specifics of this ... but I do know he is going to do a new thing and I want to see it as it springs forth! With a new vineyard comes new wine, new wine also needs a new wine skin, because the old won't do. It'll just ruin the new wine.

Mark 2:22 (ESV) *And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."*

See the Pharisees couldn't recognize Jesus as the Messiah because they were trying to fit Him into old wineskins and He just wouldn't fit.

Is it possible that we too could miss what God wants to do because what he wants to do doesn't fit in the box we've put Him in? We can't build a box around God and then expect Him to contort his will to fit inside of that box. *IT WILL NOT WORK AND WE WILL BE LEFT FRUSTRATED AND CONFUSED. **SMASH THE BOXES!***

So what's he going to do?

I don't know and that's part of the beauty of it all. We are getting swept up in this great adventure and we don't get to see the end result. I don't know exactly what it will look like ... but I know it's going to be good, I know he'll show us everything we need to see and I know what he's doing is way too big for the old wine skins.

- Reformation
- Revival
- Returning

Ephesians 3:20-21 (ESV) Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21 (MSG) God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us. **21** Glory to God in the church! Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus! Glory down all the generations! Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!

So, we can never out-imagine or out-pray God. He is able to do more, always. So we have permission to ask big, crazy, bold things. We smash the boxes and we toss away the old wineskins. We let God be God, in all of his bigness and majesty and we just sit in His presence and we obey as he reveals his will.

Conclusion:

So as we prepare to take this new land and walk into this new season, this new vineyard I pray that we would all be filled with His joy. That we'd sit in His presence and dream big dreams and that we'd obey Him when he speaks and enjoy the new wine. This is so much more than about a physical property, this is about seeing the Kingdom of God advanced here on earth. Lives changed, etc.

So yes, bring your money... we are going to need it! But with it bring the God-ordained dreams, purposes and passions he's placed in your heart; The gifting and longings he placed in the very fabric of your being and consecrate it all to him and just watch what He does!