

WHAT NOW?

I am preaching this morning because **I am a shepherd, one who shares the responsibility in assisting in the process of people from birth to Heaven.**

Turn to the book of John chapter 14. I think the 12th and 13th chapter are the most **depressing chapters** in the Bible, it starts off with the Christ celebrating his last Passover Feast with the Apostles,

John 13:1 (NIV84) — 1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father.

This was the worst day of their lives.....

- I am the Passover Lamb where I'm going you can not follow.
- One of you will betray me.
- Peter you will deny me three times before morning.

For three and a half years they lived the Kingdom Dream, but now it is crushed.

But when he opens the 14 chapter everything is turned around.

John 14:1–3 (NIV84) — 1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Philippians 3:20–21 (NIV84) — 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Today, many Christians feel like their dreams has been crushed, you may feel the disciples did around that table, worrying about their future. But the story is not over. **Sunday's coming.**

Sometimes I feel like Moses as He writes the book of DEUTERONOMY, **He stands at the shores of the Jordan and speaks to a new generation about to step into their destiny, and he says. “Remember,” remember where you came from, don't forget your past, don't forget the lessons that you have learned, don't forget the process, that God has taken us from slavery, where we looked at ourselves as grasshoppers, to a people full of promise, standing on the edge of the Jordan, just a few steps from greatness.**

At other times **I share in the responsibility of ENCOURAGING PEOPLE NOT TO FORGET THE VISION, NOT TO GET SO BURDEN WITH THE PRESENT THAT THEY FORGET THE PASSION AND EXCITEMENT OF THE DAY WHEN THEY STEPPED INTO THE REVELATION OF THE VISION THAT GOD HAD FOR THEIR LIVES.**

Let me focus on the Dream that God has for America and Living Waters, I don't want to deal with the specifics of that dream, but let me deal with a few thing that may effect that your future.

I. **TEMPORARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOESN'T DETERMINE OUR FUTURE.**

A. Do you remember the **story of Naomi** (Ruth's mother-in-law),

- 1 When she came back to Bethlehem, her husband and two boys had died, she had lost everything, those were some great dream killers.
- 2 The Bible says when she returned the people said, “Naomi is back,” but she said, “Ruth 1:20 **“Don't call me Naomi,(the pleasant one)” she told them. “Call me Mara (the bitter one), because the Almighty has made my life very bitter.**

- 3 She didn't know that God's dream for her was to **go to a pagan land and find the great grandmother for King David**, so the blind man during Christ time could cry, **"Jesus thou son of David, have mercy on me."**

B. When Benjamin was born, his mother called him "Ben-Oni"

Genesis 35:18 As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin.

1. Ben-Oni means, "**Son of my trouble**"
2. But Jacob said no, he shall be named, "Benjamin – **Son of my right hand.**" He became a great leader.

II. **DELAYS** DON'T DETERMINE OUR FUTURE.

A. Remember **Abraham**:

- 1 God said I'm going to make you a great nation, and your seed shall be as numerous as the stars of the heavens.
- 2 20 years passed and still no baby.
- 3 God has the perfect time.

III. DON'T LET **FALSE EVIDENCE** DETERMINE OUR VISION.

A. Joseph:

- 1 You know the story, how Jacob had such dreams for Joseph. His brothers hated his dream, and sold Joseph into slavery.
- 2 They dipped his coat in the blood of an animal and said, "surely you dream is dead." Don't let the **evidence of a bloody coat destroy your Future.**

IV. CONCLUSION

A. The Devil doesn't mind that Living Waters Christian Fellowship is in Orange County.

B. But what terrifies him is that there is Leadership at LWCF that have a God given dream, a dream that will not be destroyed by:

- 1 Temporary Circumstances
- 2 Devine Delays, or
- 3 False Evidence.

C. What about your life?????

- 1 Do you feel that all is lost?
- 2 That there is no hope for a Christian America??
- 3 It doesn't matter a lot who is President. Jesus is still King.