

CCC HOW TO REACH YOUR DREAM Part 3B

Achieving Through Believing - Part 3

Genesis 24:1-57

Welcome:

Dear God Letters from 8 years olds:

Dear God I went to a wedding and they kissed in the church is that ok with you.

Dear God, I think about you sometimes even when I am not at church.

Dear God, I think Your neatest invention was the stapler.

How did you figure that out?

Dear God if we come back here like something else... please don't let me come back as Jennifer Thorton

Message: We're in a series on Achieving Through Believing and to achieve through believing it begins when we begin stretching the imagination, it is beginning to

visualize the invisible. Hebrew 11:1 it says, *"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and being certain of what we do not see."*

See faith starts with the way you look at things. It starts with the way you see things, it starts with your imagination and your perception.

Your imagination is a God given ability. God gave you the ability to imagine. He created you with an imagination and there's tremendous power in your imagination, in your dreams, in your creativity.

Our dreams determine our lives, they define our lives. In other words you develop a dream and then the dream develops us, it becomes us. It rearranges our priorities and two weeks ago we started talking about How Do You Get Started. We were in the Book of Genesis in the 24th chapter looking at a story about Abraham's servant.

In this chapter there are ten practical steps on how to reach your dreams, we looked at 5 of them two weeks ago and today we will look at the other 5 as we continue our seminar on faith. We said in the first message on “How Do You Get Started” that these ten steps to dreaming you cannot skip any of them... They are a process – they are God's process in how to reach your goals. We also said that in looking at these 10 steps we were going to look at two applications with them. One application is, **to your own life** – goals in your own spiritual life, goals in your personal life, goals in your family life, your career life, your finances and second application is, **goals in your relationship to our church** and what we're going to do in the next thirty some days. “How Do You Get A Dream?” I am going to do a quick review of the first five we looked at

two weeks ago just to bring us up to speed here. The first thing you need to do is:

1. DETERMINE YOUR POSITION

You've got to evaluate your present condition. Do a self assessment. Honestly look at your own life and where you are.

2. DEFINE YOUR PURPOSE.

If you're going to reach your goal, the second thing is you have to define it. You have to try and be clear, be precise, get a picture of it. Visualize it. A fuzzy goal will never be achieved because you don't know how to get there and you don't know when you're there.

3. YOU MUST DISCOVER A PROMISE

You don't look at your own resources to reach this dream. You don't look at your own abilities. You don't look at what you can do. You look at God and His promises to

you. You look at what He wants to do, and you find a promise. You don't worry about all the "How's" and "if's" and all the problems. That's for another step later on. Right now you simply discover a promise.

4. YOU MUST DESCRIBE THE PROFIT

You must see the benefit of this... In any goal, whether it is a personal goal or a church goal or a family goal or whatever, the next step is you describe the benefit. Every goal must have a payoff or you are not motivated to achieve it. Settle the value of the goal in your mind and say "I'm going to give my time and my energy to this because I know it's worthwhile. There's value to it." Describe the profit, the benefit, the value of it and know exactly what it is.

5. DESIRE IN PRAYER

Mark 11:24 *"Whatsoever things you desire, pray and believe and you shall have them."*

I asked the family of Calvary to join with me in a 34 day prayer campaign. In that campaign I am asking each of you to join with me to commit to praying for our expansion program, \$850,000.00 and unity in the church.

I am asking you to pray three times a day for plans and the permits and the financing for this project over the next 34 days. That is a specific prayer that you can focus on.

That takes care of our review:

6. YOU MUST DIAGNOSE THE PROBLEMS

Identify the roadblocks, the obstacles, the things that are holding you back. You need to ask the question? Why don't I have the goal already? What's holding me back? What's the pitfall? What has held me back?

In Eliezar's case in this story, there were all kinds of problems ahead. He had to have God's wisdom to figure this all out. He's to go to a foreign country he's never been to, then he has to find a lady he's never met, then he has to convince her to go back with him, a stranger she doesn't know and then to marry a man she's never met. You talk about a difficult assignment...! Eliezar knew he wasn't to do this...

Eliezar has all kinds of problems here. In v. 21, he's got to find the right girl. In v. 49, he's got to get the consent of the parents. In 58, he's got to convince the girl to go back with him. There's all kinds of problems.

So let me ask you, "What's the problem here at Calvary in our dream, in our goal for Calvary?" Is it impossible? Maybe. Can God do it? No question in my mind, there is no doubt God can do it! You need to look at

the problems and be honest about them... Here is what lies ahead for us the same was true for Eliezar..

7. YOU MUST DESIGN A PLAN.

You must design a plan to overcome the problems in reaching your goal, plan out a specific course of action.

Write it out. Write it down on paper. Set some deadlines.

Schedule it on your calendar.

In this process you need to ask yourself two questions:

How do I intend to get there? Try and be specific, step by step and ask yourself, **How long will it take?**

Eliezar's plan is a masterpiece. In v. 10 it says, *"Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and he left taking with him all kinds of good things from his master."* He takes ten camels from Abraham who is a very wealthy man and loads them down with incentives for this new bride. What do you think he put on there? In v. 53 it

says there was gold and jewelry, silver, articles of clothing. I'm sure he got the latest fashions from Jerusalem and stockpiled them all and headed off.

He goes and takes the camels and in v. 11 it says he comes to the city of Nahor and has the camels kneel down outside the town by the well. Every evening the women would come out and they would get water at the well and go back in. He thought he'd have a little test. In v. 13-15 it says he set up a test. "I'm going to get my camels to kneel down here and I'm going to stand here waiting and when all of these ladies come out I'm going to ask whoever I feel led to, to give me a drink of water. If she gives me a drink of water and then offers to water all my camels, I'll know she's the right one." Why do you think he set that up as a goal? I think because he was looking at her character. He wanted a woman with a servant's attitude, a servant's spirit.

Do you realize how much water camels drink? A lot! It's no menial task watering ten camels. She probably brought bucket after bucket loaded with water to them. It probably took her a long time to water those camels.

Sure enough, in v. 15, it says before he'd finished praying Rebekah came out. She came out. She was beautiful. She was a virgin. She had character. All of these different things. So Eliezar has this plan. He offered the test. If she passes the test then he'll show her the wealth.

Then he says the next thing is he'll ask about her family. His plan was to get invited to her home. Then his plan was to share his reason for coming with the parents. Then his final plan was to pop the question, "Will you go back with me?"

So he asked these things in a logical order. A lot of people miss these things in setting their goals. They set a goal and then have no steps in getting there.

You've got to have a plan. You've got to know where you're going. Write out some specific action steps.

8. DISCIPLINE YOUR PERSONALITY

Nothing significant has ever been accomplished without discipline. It takes commitment and discipline and doing things you don't necessarily want to do to get where God wants you.

The question you want to ask yourself here is: **How do I need to grow personally?** While you're working on the goal, God is working on you. God is much more interested in your character than in your project. He's interested in that too, but He's interested in you. So you ask yourself, "**Where do I need to grow to reach my**

goal? Are there things I need to learn? Are there skills I need to develop? Are there attitudes I need to work on? Are there changes I need to make? Are there bad habits I need to let go of? What kind of person will I need to be to reach the goal?" You develop and you discipline the personality. You work on self development.

Eliezar is a perfect example of discipline. There are so many examples in this passage. In v. 21, he was disciplined in his decisions. After he saw Rebekah and she passed the test, it says, "*Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the Lord had made his journey successful.*"

He was not impulsive. He didn't make a snap judgment. The woman he chose, Isaac was going to have to live with the rest of his life. It's an important decision.

He's not making an impulsive decision. He's disciplined in his decisions.

v. 33 He's disciplined in his appetites. It says, "*Then the food was set before him but he said, 'I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say.'*" That's discipline. He's been on a long journey, he sets down to a big meal then, he says, "Hold it! I've got to tell you why I'm here first."

What is the principle? Anytime you're trying to reach your goal, sometimes you have to defer personal pleasure. You defer personal pleasure in order to reach your goal and after you reach your goal, then you reap the fruit of your rewards. Then you sit down and enjoy it.

v. 49. He disciplined his words. He's very tactful. He says, "*Now if you'll show kindness and faithfulness to my master tell me and if not, tell me so I may know which way to turn.*" He's tactful. He controls his tongue. If

you're going to be successful in life, you have to learn to control your tongue. You can't just say whatever you feel. You discipline your words.

v. 56 He disciplines his time. In v. 55 they had said to him, "*Let the girl remain with us ten days and then you may go.*" And he says in v. 56 "*Do not detain me now that the Lord has granted success.*" He didn't want to wait. They had made a deal. He wanted to get on with it. He moves ahead. He says, "I'm not here to procrastinate. I'm not here to waste time. I'm on a schedule." He disciplines himself.

During the next few weeks while we're working on this church project, God's going to be working on you and on me. There's going to be a time of great personal growth for each of you who want to join in and He wants to increase our faith and deepen our commitments and expand

our vision and get our unity and encourage personal development in our lives. That's what a church is. A church is not a building, it's people.

9. YOU MUST DEPOSIT THE PRICE

This is where the truth of the matter comes out. The fact is, in any goal there is always a price tag to be paid.

Everything worthwhile costs something. Even salvation. Salvation wasn't free. It cost Jesus Christ His life. It's a gift. But it sure wasn't free. Christ paid for it.

There's a price tag always to be paid in reaching a goal. A price in terms of time, money, energy, reputation. There are many different prices that we pay in order to reach our goals. Great goals require sacrifice. That's always a level of commitment. Some people only want to reach their goals if they're convenient. If it fits in their life without any inconveniences. The Bible teaches that giving

is the test of our faith. It really shows how much we believe God. It's making a deposit.

In your goal setting you have to ask yourself at this stage three vital questions:

- 1. What will it cost me?** In terms of time, money, energy.
- 2. What am I willing to give?**
- 3. Is it worth it?** That's the bottom line. Is it a wise investment? The Bible says, *"What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and yet loses his soul?"* What does it profit a man if he makes a million dollars and loses his family? You have to balance it out. What is it worth? Is the cause worth the cost? Is the prize worth the price?

In this instance the answer is "Yes." Eliezar, v. 52, deposited the price. It says, v. 53 *"Then the servant brought out the gold and the silver jewelry and the articles*

of clothing and he gave them to Rebekah and he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother."

Friends this is the moment of truth for Calvary Community Church. We are on the edge of the Promised Land. The fact is, do you go in or do you not? There is always a cost. There will be a cost to go in...

We have established a Building Fund for you to give towards and we have a need of 850,000.00 to see this project done. Where are you with this...

Personally, I don't care what it costs me and I think many of you don't either. It's not everyday you get to be a part of a miracle with God. That's a one in a million opportunity.

God is going to do some fantastic things in the next 34 days here and the people who are going to enjoy it the most are the people who make the commitment of time, money, to pray, to serve, to help reach this goal for our Lord.

10. YOU MUST DEPEND ON PEOPLE

God chooses to work through people. You may ask...

Aren't we suppose to depend on the Lord? Yes. But God uses people, He chose to make it that way and if people are not available it does not get done. God has used people in the last 2 weeks. God depends on people.

You will never achieve very much in life until you learn to get along with others. Success is never a one man show. It takes cooperation, teamwork, people working together.

The question you have to ask yourself is: Am I a cooperative person? Which is more important? My pride or the project. My way or the goal. Sometimes there's some compromising to be done.

Eliezar did everything he could to cooperate with Rebekah's family. He spent the night. Consider the

teamwork God has done in our church in the last few weeks.

What's the bottom line? In the next 34 days we must pull together. We must be unified. Someone said Christians are like snowflakes -- individually they're kind of frail but if enough of them stick together they can stop traffic. I can't do a whole lot on my own. You can't do a whole lot on your own. But together something significant can be done to capture the attention of this entire county. We need everybody working together. Everybody praying faithfully, everybody giving faithfully, everybody believing and expecting -- whatever. We need to make a commitment as what we are each going to give towards this project for the Lord and act on it...

I said a few weeks ago there will be some people that will leave our church in the next 34 days. They want a

religion of convenience not commitment. But you're not that kind of person; that's why you're here today. Nobody forced you to come to this church. You didn't come here out of tradition or habit. You came because you wanted to. That's the kind of attitude that God's going to work through. That's the kind of attitude that God's going to use to cause a miracle to take place in the next 34 days. God has revealed Himself to you here and you know this is all His work what we have and where we wants us to go. Now it is up to you... We can Achieve this Through Believing.

What kind of revolution would we see in the Anne Arundel County area if God's people would say "I will make a sellout of my life. I will pray. I will give. I will serve. The question, Is the cause worth the cost? You bet it is. You won't be in heaven five minutes until you say it was worth

it all. When you are in Heaven and standing before your Lord, you will say it was worth every bit, every penny, every minute I gave to it...

That's what God's going to do. He's going to do a miracle

Message Notes
HOW TO REACH YOUR DREAM
Achieving Through Believing - Part 3
Genesis 24:1-57

Eliezar's search for a wife for Isaac illustrates the ten steps of successful goal- setting. Genesis 24:1-57

REVIEW:

1. DETERMINE YOUR _____ . (vs. 1)
"Abraham was now old and well advanced in years, and the Lord had blessed him in every way."

2. DEFINE YOUR _____ . (vs. 2-4)
"... go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."

3. DISCOVER A _____ . (vs. 7)
"The Lord ... spoke to me and promised me saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land'..."

4. DESCRIBE THE _____ . (vs. 7b)
"... so that you can get a wife for my son there."

5. DESIRE IN _____ (vs. 12)
"There he prayed, 'O Lord, God of my master Abraham, give me success today..."

6. DIAGNOSE THE _____ (vs. 21, 49, 58)
(Finding the right girl, gaining consent from her parents, and convincing the girl to go home with him!)

Ask *
*

7. DESIGN A _____ (vs. 10-15)
Eliezar's plan: set up a test, show the girl the wealth, get invited home, share his purpose, and pop the question.

Ask *
*

8. DISCIPLINE YOUR _____ . (vs. 21, 33, 49, 50)

Ask
Areas of discipline:

9. DEPOSIT THE _____ (vs. 53)

Ask *
*
*

10. DEPEND ON _____ (vs. 49-51)

As