

Excellence or Excuses #1

Excellence and *your* Dreams. Genesis 37:1-11

I. Introduction

Excellence: *Unusually good, exceptional in attitude and action. Set apart from what is deemed normal. Surpassing set levels of expectation.*

Excellence versus **PERFECTION**

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

² *This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.* ³ *Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him.* ⁴ *When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.* ⁵ *Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.* ⁶ *He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷ We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."* ⁸ *His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?"* *And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.* ⁹ *Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."* ¹⁰ *When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?"* ¹¹ *His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.*

Genesis 37:1-11

II. Joseph the **FAVORED son**

1. Jacob's **FAVORITISM** - 37:3

³ *Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him.*

2. A special **GIFT** - 37:3

³ *Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him.*

3. Sibling **HATRED** - 37:4

When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

III. Joseph and his **DREAMS**

1. **DREAM #1** – 37:5-8

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. ⁶ He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: ⁷ We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.” ⁸ His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

2. **DREAM #2** – 37:9-11

Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” ¹⁰ When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?”

IV. Excellence and your **DREAM**

Birth of a Dream

1. Conceived in **INTIMACY**
2. It begins to **GROW** within you.
3. Time for **DEVELOPMENT** is demanded.
4. A dream is birthed through much **EFFORT**.
5. Once it is born a dream must be **PROTECTED**.
6. If it is cared for, your dream will grow up and **REPRODUCE** new dreams.

V. Excellence or Excuses?

Handling the dream God gave you with excellence.

1. God sized dreams do not suffer from **PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS**.
2. God sized dreams will always test your **FAITH**.
3. God sized dreams demand courage but not **REBELLION**.