**Pastor Tim’s Message Notes from 9-26-2021
David as Dreamer**

In the movie Tangled, which is a fictional story about Rapunzel, there is a song called “**I Have a Dream**.” And in this song, several characters sing about dreams or desires that they have for their life. And most of these dreams are kind of funny, because it was coming from this gang of ruffians and they’re singing about how they want to be what you would expect a gangster to sing about, such as being a **concert pianist** or a **florist** or doing **interior design**.

But despite the humor of the song, it does help remind us of an important truth a well. And this truth is that having *dreams and a vision for something is not a bad thing. In fact, this is expected of us as we follow after Jesus.*

**Scripture teaches us that God’s people do not do very well when we lack vision.** But thinking of ourselves and our world at the moment, probably for most of us, and for much of the world, a dream would be to just get through these very odd and challenging times. With Christ in us and with us, I promise you that we will make it through.

Now I do not know about you, but sometimes it feels like we have been walking through a dense fog with all the craziness of these times, like we are getting close to the end of things and then we find that we are not there yet. But despite this reality, as Christians we are called to be people of vision.

And as we walk closely with Christ, we will be filled with a desire to dream big for the Lord’s plans on this earth.

King David was someone that had a dream as well. He wanted to build a magnificent temple for the LORD in Jerusalem.

Let us read about this fascinating story found in 1 Chronicles 17:1-15

**1After David was settled in his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under a tent.”**

**2Nathan replied to David, “Whatever you have in mind, do it, for God is with you.”**

**3But that night the word of God came to Nathan, saying:**

**4“Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord says: You are not the one to build me a house to dwell in. 5I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought Israel up out of Egypt to this day. I have moved from one tent site to another, from one dwelling place to another. 6Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their leaders[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Chronicles+17%3A1-15&version=NIV#fen-NIV-10870a)**] whom I commanded to shepherd my people, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’**

**7“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. 8I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men on earth. 9And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning 10and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also subdue all your enemies.**

**“‘I declare to you that the Lord will build a house for you: 11When your days are over and you go to be with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. 12He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. 13I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. 14I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.’”**

**15Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.**

David, at this point, had succeeded in obedience to the Lord through most of his life and we see in this story how David was now settled in his palace in Jerusalem. Things are good. All is going well.

But then David had this thought and it went something like this. **“Here I am, living in a palace and the living God does not even have a house. Instead, the Ark of the Covenant was residing in a tent. Something’s wrong with this picture. I should do something about it.”**

And so David has this vision, this dream. He loved God and he wanted to honor God and to serve God and to make God’s Name known far and wide.

And so David does the right thing and he shares his thoughts to Nathan, the prophet, to see what he senses the Lord might have to say about this idea. Initially, Nathan says to do what the Lord has put on his heart to do.

But then, during that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan to tell him to inform David that he was not to build God’s Temple, but that his son would build His house --- although God didn’t really need a house.

But the LORD didn’t stop there. I believe that this dream that David had moved God’s heart. God informed David, through the prophet Nathan, that God Himself will build a house for David and that David’s throne or house would be established forever.

Ultimately, this is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. For Jesus is not only the divine Son of God, but also of the human line of King David.

And Jesus is the King forever and ever. Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promise to David to build David’s house.

Again, this blessing from God appears to have begun with David wanting to do something for the Lord, wanting to bless the Lord his God. And God actually told him ‘no’ to this idea, but something better yet came out of it.

So what is the significance of this story of David? It is simply this. It is a reminder that God wants us to dream big when it comes to doing things that honor and glorify God.

So again, let us consider what the Lord is putting on your heart to do for His glory? It could be to purchase something. We have members at our church that when they heard of the outdoor movie idea, they were so excited that they covered the cost for this. I believe that a dream was coming alive within them and they responded in faith.

It could be to help out with an existing ministry. It could be to start something new.

It is good to speak to the Lord about your idea and probably good to speak to leaders about it, as David did with Nathan. Others can help discern with you what the Lord might be calling you to do.

Today I would like to share a few of my dreams regarding our church and our community with you.

I have a dream that every person in our church community would be excited to be in ministry in some way. Every Christian is a minister in some way or another. I would love to have every one of us grasp that we are all in ministry together.

**One critical ministry is the ministry of prayer**. I would love to have a prayer team developed here at Chestnut Grove. There are all different ways that we can be in prayer and if you feel the Lord stirring in you as I speak about this, please let me know and I will speak to you more about this dream.

**I have a dream that everyone in our church becomes connected to a small group.** Sunday mornings are so important, but connecting to one another at some time besides the Sunday worship celebration is really helpful to our Christian walk.

I know that everyone’s schedule is a little different, but I would love to see everyone engaged in at least one small group ministry here at the church. There are new groups to be launched, that are just waiting on us to begin.

One of my dreams – sharing my faith well.

For many years, one of my dreams was to be able to share my faith effectively with others. I have long desired for others to know the Jesus that I love and serve. For them to know the Jesus that can save them and give them true life.

I didn’t know at first how to share my faith. I just knew that I wanted others to know Jesus.

But God took this dream and He has given me tools along the way. And yes, I’m still learning and growing in this way, but when we take steps on pursuing God’s visions or dreams for us, He will equip us on what to do.

So perhaps God is making some of my dreams for Chestnut Grove your own, whether it is through your desire to take part in prayer ministry or a small group. Or perhaps it is helping with an existing ministry. There are many ways to serve here --- from helping with Sunday School or serving as a liturgist or usher or greeter or in other ministries.

Or maybe it is something brand new. Perhaps a dream to connect to people in the neighborhood.

Whatever it may be, I invite you to take it to God in prayer and allow Him to direct you. Like David, God might have something different in mind, but it will bless the Lord’s heart when we are considering how we can bless the Lord with our life.

References:

Tanged Lyric Video I’ve Got a Dream – Sing Along – Youtube

Biblegateway.com