

This is the Day...Wednesday

September 22, 2021

Dreamers

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." (Joel 2:28)

I graduated from UNC in Charlotte in the spring of 1985. I had not travelled the normal road toward a college education. My post-high school education had begun seven years earlier when I spent one year at Appalachian State University. I did not stay at Appalachian because I could not envision a future there. It was like I was travelling down a road without a particular destination in mind. For me it was a road to nowhere and a waste of my time.

After returning to Gastonia, I began working with my Dad at his local insurance agency. Dad had built a nice business in Gastonia and was very open to my staying on and ultimately running his business someday. It was an appealing offer and certainly would have provided financial security and a peaceful life for me. But I knew there was still something missing. God had something else in mind for me. I began attending the local community college and, two years later, began attending UNC in Charlotte. I continued to work for my Dad during the day and participated in most of my classes at night.

In the spring of 1985, after seven years, my dream had been fulfilled and I finally completed my college degree. I was a college graduate! Now what? For weeks following my graduation, I considered my future. What was my next step? More schooling? Or maybe I should take Dad's offer and continuing working for him. One day, I read a quote in a book. I do not even remember the name of the book or the author, but I do remember the quote. It said, "Risk everything for a dream that nobody sees but you." I have always believed that God put that quote in front of me that day because it turned my life around. God helped me to clear my vision and see my dreams. I gave up the money and prestige of owning my own business to seek a dream that many around me would not understand.

In the thirty plus years that have passed, God has continued to pour out His Spirit and allow me to fulfill that dream. Even as I enter the later years of my life and my final years of ministry, I still dream those dreams. So, what is the dream? It is different for every person. For me, the dream is to have special people in my life with which to share my love. The dream is to be with people in their worst times as God has been with me in mine. For me, the dream is to work beside the people of a small downtown church who are willing to sacrifice for the least of these, as the Lord has commanded. The dream is even being in a position to share my thoughts each morning in a short devotion that may help someone have a better day.

They are simply dreams, but dreams do not have to be complicated. The world is changed one person at a time by the simply dreams that no one understands but you. As you seek God's Spirit, whether you are young or old, son or daughter, what are your dreams today?