

LET'S BE DREAM BUILDERS

John 4:34-35

INTRODUCTION: John 4:34-35- *"Jesus said[^] to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. 35) "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest."*

1. If you have ever visited the Epcot Center in Orlando, Florida, then you probably found it to be interesting, informative and entertaining.
 - a) The research, time and money that went into a place such as this is mind boggling.
 - b) When the Epcot Center was dedicated, Eric Severid (CBS News Commentator) was invited to be the main speaker for the ceremony.
 - c) Naturally, he spent a great deal of time praising Walt Disney for his genius and accomplishment.
2. Today I want to use a point he made in that dedication speech, which has a lot of application to the church as well.
 - a) The speaker said that **there are three types of people who make up the world**: There are well poisoners, grass cutters, and dream builders.
 - b) He said that neither the well poisoner, nor the grass cutter could ever have accomplished what had been accomplished in the Epcot Center
 - c) It took a dream builder to accomplish an enormous task such as this.
3. I'm not going to deal with the Epcot Center today, nor with Disney World, however I would like to deal with the points made in that dedication speech.
4. I want us to consider a spiritual application as we look at each category of people, and **I WANT TO CHALLENGE YOU TODAY TO COMMIT YOURSELF TO BEING A DREAM BUILDER.**
5. And in order to be a dream builder, **YOU HAVE TO HAVE GOALS, YOU HAVE TO HAVE PURPOSE, AND YOU HAVE TO HAVE A VISION.**

I. FIRST, SOME PEOPLE ARE WELL POISONERS.

- A. A well poisoner is someone who is just trying to cause trouble, or a person who just can't seem to find satisfaction in the focus and activities of godly people, so naturally he causes THEM trouble!
- B. Do you remember a few years ago when someone poisoned Tylenol capsules?
 1. That scared the entire country, and I am sure that you probably did not take a single Tylenol until you felt it was safe for you to do so!
 - a) Many people went around with headaches because they were afraid to take any medication for the headache.
 - b) Why would anyone want to place poison in Tylenol capsules?
 3. There wasn't anyone in particular they were trying to kill, **they just wanted to cause trouble.**
 4. They could be placed in the category of a well poisoner, ***they just wanted to cause trouble.***
- B. Friends, we're all aware that **there was a well poisoner in the Garden of Eden.**
 1. God made man, placed him in this beautiful paradise with everything he needed for sustenance, joy and a feeling of completeness.
 2. But God laid a restriction on Adam and Eve when He told them they were not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil!
 3. But, uh-oh, a well poisoner appeared on the scene and brought mankind into a state of disobedience. **Gen.3:1-6**- *"Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" 2) The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3) but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" 4) The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! 5) "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6) When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate."*

4. It didn't change Satan's situation at all for him to deceive man, it didn't elevate him in the sight of God, and it certainly didn't make Adam and Eve think more highly of him; **he just wanted to cause trouble!**
- C. There were several well poisoners present among the spies which went into Canaan. **Num.13:26-33-** *"they proceeded to come to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the sons of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; and they brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land. 27) Thus they told him, and said, "We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28) "Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29) "Amalek is living in the land of the Negev and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites are living in the hill country, and the Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan." 30) Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it." 31) But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us." 32) So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. 33) "There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.""*
1. Joshua and Caleb were content to stand on God's assurances of victory and pledge that they'd possess the land He had given them in promise!
 2. Yet, the well poisoners, fearful and without faith, were content to stop the progress of God's people as they complained about their predicament!
 3. ***These well poisoners led all the Israelites above 20 to their death in the wilderness.***
- D. Among the closest companions of Jesus there was a well poisoner.
1. Judas Iscariot had every opportunity to see the power of God and to learn His will.
 2. Yet, when it came down to the time of testing, Judas' true colors came through, and he revealed himself as a well poisoner. **Matt.26:48-50-** *"Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him." 49) Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. 50) And Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him."*
 3. He wanted earthly riches and he realized Jesus wasn't going to give that, so he poisoned the well.
 4. In essence, by Judas betraying Jesus, he was revealing the fact that he really didn't believe that Jesus was going to reign as king.
 - a) If he'd really believed Jesus would reign as king he would not have betrayed him.
 - b) But he doubted it could happen, so he gave up his allegiance!
- E. Every generation has had its well poisoners.
1. Paul preached the gospel in Galatia and established a number of churches.
 2. It wasn't long until well poisoners sought to pervert the gospel of Christ. They tried to draw the people back to the Old Law. **Gal.1:6-9.**
 3. John wrote in **1 John 4** that many false prophets have gone out into the world.
 4. Who were they? They were well poisoners. Why would anyone choose to be a FALSE TEACHER? **THAT'S PROBABLY NOT WHAT THEY SET OUT TO BE!**
- F. Well poisoners come in many shapes and sizes in the church today.
1. There are those who are afraid to stretch out their budget a little bit to provide more means for the Lord's people to reach out to the lost!
 2. There are those who complain about everything that's done and even HOW IT'S BEING DONE, and they are always the **ONES WHO ARE LEAST INVOLVED** in doing God's service!
 3. There's always a few who can't seem to get excited about ANY facet of the Lord's work, so while **THEY DON'T EVEN TRY**, they sit back and poison wells of those who make the efforts!

4. These are the people who through their talking are great discouragers, by tearing down everyone who is enthusiastic to do the Lord's work.
5. We don't need well poisoners, and thankfully, we don't have 'em here, but it's **ONLY BECAUSE** you're devoted to the LORD! And anytime we start throwing poison, **we've lost that devotion!**

II. BUT SECOND, SOME PEOPLE ARE GRASS CUTTERS.

- A. Who are they?
 1. These people are content to drift along and not rock the boat.
 2. They keep the grass mowed, so to speak, but do little beyond that. And I'm not talking about those who take care of our yards and building.
 3. This figure of speech is addressing those who would not think about poisoning a well, but are not willing to extend themselves in the Lord's work.
 4. The church at Laodicea was neither cold nor hot. **Rev.3:14-22**
 - a) These people weren't **TRYING TO DISCOURAGE** the work of the Lord, they just didn't want to commit themselves to further the Lord's cause.
 - b) They were the pew sitters who never got involved in anything, they weren't really converted.
 - c) They were like some UNINVOLVED members described by the thought: Instead of "Standing on the Promises" they seem more content just "Sitting on the Premises!"
 - d) They were satisfied to be grass cutters, and the Lord said that he was going to "*spew them out of His mouth.*" **Rev.3:17.**
- B. We need to be **more than "grass cutters"** in our spiritual lives.
 1. We have a great purpose to be focused, and committed, and preserve our spiritual equilibrium in order to maintain stability and not be on a spiritual roller coaster ride here in Carmichael.
 2. We have so many things to be encouraged about, with new families becoming a part of our family, home Bible studies being conducted in different areas, and an intense busy-ness on the part of much of the membership!
 3. As in nearly every place, there still may be a few who are NOT involved in a way that is very helpful to the Lord's cause.
 4. And it's truly a shame, that there might be a single person who may be in grave danger of just being a grass cutter, instead of "*laborers together with God.*"
 5. Friends, there are all ready too many grass cutters in the Kingdom – they don't need US in their numbers.

III. THIRD, SOME PEOPLE ARE DREAM BUILDERS.

- A. As we live and work in the Lord's church, we need to develop a great vision in our goal, a grand purpose in our efforts, and an honorable plan for the efforts we expend!
 1. Jesus told his disciples to lift up their eyes and look on the fields for they are white unto harvest.
 2. They still are! Today! In Carmichael, California! **RIGHT WHERE WE ARE!!**
 3. We need to have this **TIMELY** vision, purpose and plan so that we can reach out to a needy world with the saving gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
- B. There are so many wonderful activities which the church here in Carmichael is involved in as well as things we are contemplating that we need your help to accomplish them properly and prudently!
 1. We need people committed to visiting those who are sick, or bereft of comforts, both physically and spiritually! **Gal.6:1-3-** "*Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2) Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. 3) For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*"
 2. We need those who are willing to literally "work their fingers to the bone" teaching our classes.
 3. We need those willing to exert themselves to go into another's home for Bible studies!
 4. We need people who invite friends and family members to worship God, and hear the truth taught.
 5. In other words, we need **Dream Builders:** **PEOPLE WHO CAN SEE GREAT THINGS IN OUR FUTURE.**

- C. It is one thing to know what we want to accomplish.
1. It is completely another thing to be active in reaching that goal.
 2. **The elders are issuing a challenge to your today:**
 - a) By the end of 1997 [just four months from now] let's commit ourselves to averaging over 125 people in attendance each Sunday morning for worship (this would be easy to reach if just all the members would show up at one time!).
 - b) Let's ALSO commit ourselves to averaging over 125 people in attendance for our Bible class period on Sunday morning, our Sunday night worship, and our Wednesday night Bible study.
 - c) And, let's commit ourselves to stretching out our contribution to an average of \$2,000 per week by the end of 1997. (If we grow to our other goals, this will be the easiest to reach).
 3. We have a tremendous opportunity with the **GREAT PEOPLE** we have here in this Carmichael congregation! Add to the human potential that **POWERFUL MESSAGE** which God has given us and there's NO WAY Satan can possible hold us back from glorifying God in all our accomplishments!!
Rom.1:16.
- D. Peter wrote about those who could, and those who couldn't see afar off; in other words, who were not dream builders. **2 Pet.1:3-9.** *"seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4) For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5) Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6) and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7) and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9) For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins."*
1. **THE WAY TO BE A DREAM BUILDER IS TO PLACE YOUR FUTURE IN HIS HANDS.**
 2. **IF YOU PLACE YOUR FUTURE IN HIS HANDS, FILL YOUR LIFE WITH THESE VIRTUES, THEN YOU TRULY CAN BE A DREAM BUILDER.**

CONCLUSION:

1. In the days of the Old West, evil people who were trying to elude capture or minimize the power of their enemies sometimes **poisoned the water** along a trail, especially in desert areas. Needless to say, such **heartless** people did great harm! ***And not just to their "ENEMIES," but to all who came after them!***
2. It is sad to say that today the gospel is being poisoned by the doctrines of men, and great harm is done.
3. There are also many "religionists" who are content to do very little in the service of the Lord, who could be called grass cutters. They just hang around until someone else does the work for them.
4. FOR US to rise above it all, to be real dream builders, and carry out the Lord's mission, we need to focus on HIS WORD, and abide in it. We must address ourselves to our own purification in the blood of the Lamb, and reach out to others to encourage godly service. **If you're not already a DREAM BUILDER then why not head yourself in that direction today, while we stand and sing!**