

2010 - The Year of Fulfilment?

Trusting God to connect the dots...

Intro:

1. Life's circumstances may cause us to lose our belief in the goodness of God
2. Satan distracts us away – change in focus
3. Hope deferred makes the heart sick – different personality types cope in different ways

1. The Starting Point

Ps 37 vs. 4 – 23 our desires linked in with Him

Joel 2 vs. 28 our dreams can come from Him

Ps 23 Ps 23:4 The Message “even when the way *goes through* Death Valley...”

- Journey not a Destiny
- Moving up the Mountain – not camped in the rocky place
- Ps 84:5-7 AV “ *Passing through* the valley of Weeping (Baca). They make it a place of springs... they *go from strength to strength*...”
- Ps 84:5-7 The Mess – *our lives become roads He travel*; He in the process of connecting the dots

Galatians 5 Jesus came to bring us into abundance and freedom

2. The Dream

God's Dream: Genesis 2 vs. 31 “God saw everything He had made, it was very good, He approved it completely” Everything was good & blessed – God's dream – joint dream (the Trinity) = intimacy with mankind. Gen 1 vs. 26 (He understood about being alone!) Genesis 3 vs. 22 – God's dream is shattered (vs. 9 – “where are you?” – sound of His heart breaking)

Joseph's dream: Genesis 37 vs. 5 & 9 followed by ...

Betrayal, time with Potiphar, followed by

Betrayal, 2 years in jail,

= 13 years in Egypt before fulfilment of dream is *around the corner* (Genesis 41 vs. 46)

Another 7 years +, before famine sets in and promise comes to pass.

NB: - man of God: fulfilment in his hand despite famine in the land

- We can only connect the dots in retrospect.

Us Do we have to let go of the dream and trust God to connect the dots?

3. Faith vs. flexibility

Go with the flow	no matter how painful. (Examples in Heb 12 of people who did what was before them)
Jesus	was God's plan. (Sweated blood it was so hard!)
Peter van	analogy of train running on 2 tracks. (Faith runs alongside doing what's before me.)
Us?	Be guided by HS to do what is appropriate in its time

It's okay to make mistakes Ps37:24; Mark 9 "I believe; help my doubts"; Abraham fathered Ishmael whilst waiting for the fulfilment of God's promise & God still came through and describes him as the father of faith!

Conclusion: **Ecclesiastes 3- A Time for Everything**

A Time for Everything

1 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven—

2 A time to give birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

3 A time to kill and a time to heal;

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

4 A time to weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn and a time to dance.

5 A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;

A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

6 A time to search and a time to give up as lost;

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

7 A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;

A time to be silent and a time to speak.

8 A time to love and a time to hate;

A time for war and a time for peace.

9 What profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils? **10** I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men with which to occupy themselves.

God Set Eternity in the Heart of Man

11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

12 I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime; **13** moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor—it is the gift of God. **14** I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him.