

Nacho Libre Clip – 0:22:52 - 0:26:55

Who here has tried out for a sports team and not made the cut or sat the bench the entire season? Who has tried out for a solo for band or choir and watched as the director gave it to someone else, or maybe ended up in the choir or band you didn't want to be in? Have any of you ever been told you didn't qualify for a job or some position or a class or something else you really wanted? Who here has studied for a test and still failed? Hold on let me change that one a little. Who here has studied hard, by hard I mean more than 10 minutes in the class before your test, and still failed? Every adult and student here has been through something like that. We have all been passed over, failed, rejected, not qualified, or been told we just won't fit, and no matter who you are it hurts to go through stuff like that. It hurts to be told we don't match up. It hurts to fail.

That probably didn't work out the way that Nacho had planned. Losing a match wasn't number one on his list of things to do, and losing to those guys probably didn't help the matter. Nacho's dreams took a bit hit here, but could you imagine having all your dreams completely shattered?

Last week we left Joseph right after he had some pretty big dreams that he shared with his family. Remember that he had two separate dreams in which he saw that he would one day rule over his family and they would bow down to him. Of course his brothers didn't like hearing that, so we catch up with them after they have been plotting of what to do with Joseph.

**Genesis 37:18-28** "18They spotted him off in the distance. By the time he got to them they had cooked up a plot to kill him. 19The brothers were saying, "Here comes that dreamer. 20Let's kill him and throw him into one of these old cisterns; we can say that a vicious animal ate him up. We'll see what his dreams amount to." 21Reuben heard the brothers talking and intervened to save him, "We're not going to kill him. 22 No murder. Go ahead and throw him in this cistern out here in the wild, but don't hurt him." Reuben planned to go back later and get him out and take him back to his father. 23When Joseph reached his brothers, they ripped off the fancy coat he was wearing, 24grabbed him, and threw him into a cistern. The cistern was dry; there wasn't any water in it.

At this point it probably seems like some mean prank in the story. Joseph's brothers seem to just be picking on him. I can imagine him in this big hole in the ground yelling, "Hey guys, let me out of here. This isn't funny." Then the story starts to get a little bit more serious for Joseph.

25Then they sat down to eat their supper. Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites on their way from Gilead, their camels loaded with spices, ointments, and perfumes to sell in Egypt. 26Judah said, "Brothers, what are we going to get out of killing our brother and concealing the evidence? 27Let's sell him to the Ishmaelites, but let's not kill him--he is, after all, our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. 28By that time the Midianite traders were passing by. His brothers pulled Joseph out of the cistern and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites who took Joseph with them down to Egypt." (MSG)

What had seemed like normal mean older brother stuff had now become one of the biggest turning points in Joseph's life. Joseph dreamed that he was going to be a great leader sometime in the near future, but now his dreams were . . . just . . . dreams. As we read through this story of Joseph we see that he is now at a point where these dreams don't look like they have a chance of coming true. How could they come true? He was now being sold into slavery and headed to Egypt. I

guess he had to be thankful that he was still alive, but in no way could this situation work out. Could you imagine how depressed and discouraged he must have been? First, to know that his brothers hated him that much, and then to know that things just weren't going to work out the way he had dreamed.

Nacho's dreams were headed the same direction.

Nacho Libre Clip: - 0:11:31 – 0:15:25

Nacho just didn't lose a match like we saw earlier. The girl he loved told him he couldn't have his dreams. Then the only thing that he could do, cook, he was told he couldn't do well either. Nachos dreams just didn't seem to be working out the way he had planned. He wanted to be a wrestler more than anything, but making it happen wasn't as easy as he had hoped. Life was pretty discouraging.

Last week I told you that God wants you to dream big dreams. Your first priority is your relationship with him. As you grow closer to God your dreams will be Gods dreams and his plans will become your plans. When we make decisions in life and we desire to do God's will this is the key, but like we saw today in the life of Nacho and Joseph it doesn't always work out the way we plan and dream.

Here's what it all comes down to. You have dreams and plans for your life. Even your everyday decisions you want to give to God. You keep your relationship with God strong and growing, you are in the Word regularly, spending time in prayer, and doing your best to listen to God's direction for your life. But what do you do when your dreams and plans don't seem to be headed in the right direction or the direction you think they should be headed. What happens when tragedy hits? How do you respond? Where do you turn?

I want you to follow me here. This is where things get important. Throughout the entire story of Joseph we see all the details, see the dreams, see how mean his brothers are, but one thing is missing. Well, I guess it isn't missing, but if you don't pay attention you are going to miss it. What we don't see is where God is in all of this. We don't see him coming down to tell Joseph it is going to be ok. God doesn't come in to rescue Joseph when he is sold into slavery. God really seems to be absent. But trust me, it's only on the surface where we don't see God.

In the Old Testament dreams were a bigger deal than they are for most of us today. Plus we aren't talking about dreaming you are sitting in your first hour class and you realize you're the only one still in your PJ's or even worse, in your birthday suit. The thing that jumps out at me in this passage is that at one point during the story, Joseph's brothers were going to kill him. Then they changed their mind. Those things could seem like a coincidence. God isn't mentioned in changing Joseph's brother's minds. The scripture doesn't say, "These Dreams Are From God." But I look at that story and one thing tells me that every twist, every turn, every detail, and every dream came straight from God. It says later on in the story in Chapter 39:2 that "The Lord was with Joseph." Yep, there's my proof. This story might not say a ton about God, but God "was with Joseph."

When Joseph was having his dreams, "The Lord was with Joseph." When Joseph's brothers were going to kill him, "The Lord was with Joseph." When Joseph was sold into slavery, "The Lord was with Joseph." For the rest of this story and the rest of his life, "The Lord was with Joseph."

Here's how you fit into this story. Joseph had dreams, Nacho had dreams, and you have your dreams. Joseph wanted to do the right thing, Nacho wanted to do the right thing, and I believe we want to do the right things and follow God's will. Joseph's plans and dreams didn't seem to be working out, Nachos plans and dreams didn't seem to be working out, and there will be times when your dreams and plans don't seem to be working out the way you expected. But you have to

Way of the Nacho

Lerrin Wentworth

Fuel Student Ministries

remember this. The Lord was with Joseph, the Lord was with Nacho . . . well, don't really know about that one . . . and the Lord is with you. You can insert your name into that verse. This isn't just something I am saying to make you feel better when bad things happen. This isn't just something I am saying to give you that warm fuzzy feeling. I am telling you that the Lord was with Joseph, was, is, and will always be with you.

**When things don't seem to be working out, God is still out working.** You keep working to stay close to God in your relationship. His plans and dreams will become your plans and dreams. Then when things don't seem to be working out and those plans and dreams seem to be crumbling know that God is with you.

Joseph's brothers did their best to mess up God's plan for Joseph, but God was with Joseph. As we keep going along in this story you will see others who try to mess up God's plan for Joseph, but God was with Joseph. God has plans for you and the Lord will always be with you. No matter what others try to do, no matter how difficult life gets, even in the day to day decisions, God is with you.