

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 3:20-21.**
- B. Many of you have heard and continue to enjoy the song "The Impossible Dream." Many, many great musical artists have recorded it.
- C. This song originally came from a musical entitled, *Man of La Mancha* taken from a 16th century story by Cervantes about a man named Don Quixote.
- D. In the story, Quixote was an insane man who read many fictional stories and then decided to become hero. Unfortunately for him he conquered only wind-mills and flocks of sheep. At the end of the story he realizes his insanity and knows that his conquests have been but dreams.
- E. The song however, has proven to be an inspiration to many. Here are the words; many of you will recognize them quickly:

1) To dream the impossible dream--to fight the unbeatable foe,
To bear with unbearable sorrows to run where the brave dare not go--
To right the unrightable wrongs to love, pure and chaste from afar,
To try when your arms are too weary--to reach the unreachable star.

This is my quest--to follow that star
No matter how hopeless no matter how far,
To fight for the right, without question or pause,
To be willing to march into hell for a Heavenly cause;
And I know if only I'll be true to this glorious quest--
That my heart--Will be peaceful and calm, when I'm laid to my rest.

And the man scorned and covered with scars,
Still strove with his last ounce of courage to reach the unreachable stars...

- F. This song is both encouraging and depressing.
- G. The Bible says that with God's help we can dream the impossible dream, and reach the unreachable star!

I. THE "UNBEATABLE FOE."

- A. When left by ourselves, Satan is the unbeatable foe. He is a spirit being possessing powers greater than we have.
- B. In our battle with Satan we will lose every time. He is the "unbeatable foe" (Rom. 3:23).
...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- C. But with the help of Jesus, Satan is beat-able. Jesus' death makes this unbeatable foe, conquerable! That which we cannot do by ourselves is something we can do with X's help (Heb. 2:14-15).
Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; **15** and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

II. TO BEAR, RUN, RIGHT, LOVE, AND TRY.

- A. All of the above verbs are great words describing the Xian life.
- B. We are told in the scriptures to do each one that we might gain X and eternal life.
- C. **Bear.**
We are to bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:1).
Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of

gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.

D. **Run.**

We are to run the race that is set before us (Heb. 12:1).

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,...

E. **Right.**

We are to respect what is right in the sight of all men (Rom. 12:17).

Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

F. **Love.**

We are to love one another with a pure heart (1Pet. 1:22).

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

G. **Try.**

Let us try to see Jesus with the same spirit as Zaccheus (Lk. 19:3).

And he was trying to see who Jesus was, and he was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature.

H. All of these qualities will make one more effective in daily living, in struggling against Satan and sin, and better servants of others.

III. TO FOLLOW, FIGHT, MARCH, AND BE TRUE.

A. The song continues with great words.

B. **Follow.**

We are to follow Jesus to be His disciple (Lk. 9:23).

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

C. **Fight.**

We are to fight the good fight of faith (1Tim. 6:12).

Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

D. **Marches.**

The good soldier marches, to the correct beat (2Tim. 2:4).

No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

E. **True.**

To be true, means being loyal and faithful (Rev. 2:10).

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

IV. BUT THE DREAM IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE!

A. Everything that Quixote did was based on his dream. He found the strength to do all the things mentioned in the song because he had a dream for his life.

B. Martin Luther King was very successful for many reasons, primarily due to the fact that he had a dream!

C. The sad part of this song is that one is chasing dreams that will never be reached, or will never come true. What good is there in chasing something that will never be attainable?

D. Thanks be to God that when we **bear, run, right, love, try, follow, fight, march, and be true**, that it is for us a dream-able and do-able dream. The power is at work within us (Eph. 3:20-21).

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, **21** to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

E. And the power that comes to do all of these things is from God--as we dream for our lives.

1. John 3:16; 14:1.

- (Jn 3:16) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- (Jn 14:1) "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.
2. Mark 8:35; 10:21.
(Mk 8:35) "For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's shall save it.
(Mk 10:21) And looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
 3. Matthew 24:13.
"But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved."
 4. Romans 6:22; 8:28.
(Rom 6:22) But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.
(Rom 8:28) And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
 5. Ephesians 3:20,21; 6:12,13.
(Eph 3:20-21) Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, [21] to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.
(Eph 6:12-13) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.
- F. Many others could be quoted showing the great promises of the Bible to those who dream!

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. With JC, the "unbeatable foe" is beat-able.
- B. With JC, dreams that seem impossible (eternal life) are possible (Isa. 40:28-31).
Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth
Does not become weary or tired.
His understanding is inscrutable.
29 He gives strength to the weary,
And to *him who* lacks might He increases power.
30 Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,
31 Yet those who wait for the LORD
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up *with* wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.
- C. Do you have a dream for your life? It is time to start dreaming!
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.