



THE NOBLE HEART™

June 17, 2009 eLetter

Between the dreaming and the coming true

My oldest son, Jesse, and I sat on the back deck last weekend talking for hours about dreams – the kind that you have for your life about your future. He raised the question of how do you NOT become the person who dreams but never moves in the direction of those dreams – stuck in the dreaming. Now that’s a profound, crucial life question! We went back and forth between our own journey and the journeys of others.

I think we can all get trapped on the edges of “just dreaming” or “just doing” – living in the world of “what could be” or “what is”. The dreamer lets the immensity of their dreams overwhelm the doing and the doer lets the minutiae of reality overwhelm the dreams. There are those who dream about the things they want to do or become, but they never take a step toward it – and they become angry that nothing works out for them. And then there are those who have never had a dream for their life, they just do what needs to be done to make life work – and they become angry for how mundane their life feels.

Jesse and I pursued the path of the dreamer asking, “why does a person get stuck in the dreaming, not getting to the ‘coming true’?” Here a few of our thoughts:

Perhaps the dreamer doesn’t know the path to the “coming true”- not knowing what is needed to get there. They may just need some wise counsel. Their obstacle may be living a relationally isolated life. As Miles Monroe said, “While our calling is personal, it is never private.”

Perhaps the dreamer categorizes dreams (desires) as secular or sacred. Believing that his dream is probably unspiritual, he does not pursue it. The dreamer must understand that a desire is more fully understood as it is pursued. God will reveal its purpose as we move into it. Dreamers must also understand that some dreams are primarily for our own heart while some are for the heart of others. (ie. I may dream of playing the guitar, but it may be for me and not an audience.) Both have value and a place.

Perhaps the dreamer has false expectations. Believing that the dream is of God, they expect that He will usher them into it – without much work or time, without much perseverance or discipline, without much learning or development. Perhaps this reflects more on their maturity and work ethic than their faith. Perhaps the dreamer needs the humility which says, “There is so much for me to learn and become before I can walk fully in this dream”; grasping the scripture, “Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.” Zech. 4:10 NLT. Perhaps the dreamer needs to

remember that doing leads to learning which leads to more precision doing which leads to more precision learning which develops into something glorious and weighty.

Perhaps, on the other hand, the dreamer needs to believe that they possess enough desire, knowledge and skill to start right now – simply start with what you have. Waiting will not bring more, it will simply dissipate what currently exists. As Paul said, “For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.” 2 Cor. 8:12 (Paul wrote this in the context of giving financially, but it is true of giving in general)

There is great joy in the dreaming and the coming true. And there is great joy in the in-between.

As far as the “doer”, perhaps that’s for another eLetter.

Gary