

I Have A Gospel Dream!

I say to you today my friends that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I have a New Dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in my heart's dream. It is a dream about the Church that belongs to Jesus Christ. I have a Dream that one day the Church of Jesus will rise up and live out the true meaning of its' creation – To Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever. I have a dream that one day on the hills of the New Jerusalem, the sons and daughters of former men haters and the sons and daughters of former God haters will be able to sit down together, with hearts full of love, at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. I have a dream that one day, even in the Middle East, a desert region sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my two children will one day worship in a land where they will no longer be judged by the content of their character but by the righteousness of their Deliverer. I have a New Dream today.

I have a dream that one day the Redeemed of Christ whose lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification will be transformed into a situation where little sinful boys and little sinful girls will be able to join hands as little redeemed boys and beloved girls and walk together as sisters and brothers. I have a New Dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted and every hill and mountain shall be made low. The rough places will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight and the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith with which we reach out to the communities in which we live. This is the hope that we rise with in the morning and lay down with at night. And with this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we'll be able to transform the jangling discord of our souls into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to forgive one another, to stand up for freedom together, even to die together. Knowing that one day – one day we will be free. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. The land for which my Savior died. A land where Christ has slain my pride. From every mountain side, let freedom ring."

And if we are to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ with integrity and clarity, this must become true.

So then, let the Gospel ring. Yes let the Gospel ring from the prodigious hill tops of New Hampshire. Let the Gospel ring from the rubble of the Trade Center of New York. Let the Good News of freedom ring from the barbed wire of the West Bank. Let the Gospel of freedom ring from the Wailing Wall of Jerusalem. Let the Grace of Jesus ring from India to Pakistan. Let it ring From Iraq to China. Let the Gospel ring from the barrios of Los Angeles to the hurricane swept homes of Louisiana. Let the sweet Mercy of Jesus ring from the aids ravaged jungles of Africa to the starving masses in the Philippines. But not only that... Let the Gospel Good News of Freedom ring from the Presbyterian Churches of Alabama. Let the Gospel ring from the Baptist Churches of Mississippi. Let the Gospel ring above the perverted siren call of the Prosperity Gospel. Let it ring in the heart of every misguided Christian Evangelical and every lifeless Christian Liberal. Let the Gospel ring from the halls of the Vatican and let it ring from the deadest churches in the Bible Belt. Let it ring in the angry

classrooms of Greenville, South Carolina. Let it ring even from the darkest regions of our country. And let it ring in the darkest regions of our incredibly sinful hearts. Let the Gospel ring. Let the Gospel ring. Let freedom ring. Let the Good News of Jesus Christ ring.

Because, brothers and sisters, when we let the Gospel ring - when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, from every tribe and every nation – then we will by faith, be able to see forward to that day when all the Redeemed of Christ - black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestant and Catholic, Liberal and Conservative, Democrat and Republican - will be able join hands and sing in the words of the old negro spiritual, “Free at Last, Free at Last, Thank Christ Almighty, we are free at last.”

Tim Melton
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