

“Dream, Dream”

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*1st Presbyterian Church
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Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18*

As you know, I love Christmas, the Christmas season. I’m especially happy, Victoria arrived from Olympia, Washington on Wednesday evening. So we will all be together this Christmas! A dream come true!!

Knowing that Victoria was coming home for Christmas, I recalled a play that Shawn, Victoria and I attended in New York several years ago. It was “The Rainmaker” starring Woody Harrelson (whom Victoria really appreciated).

The Rainmaker

So here we are, in a tiny mid-Depression Mid-western town, in the midst of a long drought. (A dry spell! Like Georgia in the recent days.) The father is a kind and caring, hard working widower. He has three children, two boys and a girl. The drought has hurt them. The children are adults. Noah the oldest, is the pragmatist. He is the one in charge of the farm. He does the “books”, and all that needs doing. (Noah – in a drought – did you catch that?) At one point he says, “Drought’s a drought, and a dream’s a dream.” Now isn’t that practical?

A drought’s a drought and a dream’s a dream – nothing more! Noah sees things just the way they are. Dry, empty, still, hopeless. There is no false hope in Noah, “no sir-ree! None, nadda, nope!”

Then there is Lizzie. A wonderful human being, yet unfulfilled. She has dreamed of more, but is close to believing her big brother’s declarations of “what is, just is. Face it, and go on!”

There is a dryness, a drought all around. It permeates this family.

Now here is where the play may not translate all that well. You see a major part of Lizzie’s dream is to “find a man” and marry. (Gloria Steinem, I believe wanted this part, but was deemed too shy.) Lizzie was, to herself and to her brother Noah, “nothing special.” She should just settle, and stop dreaming of a knight in shining armor. Noah, had practically drummed the dream out of Lizzie, when Starbuck arrives on the arid scene (Woody Harrelson).

Starbuck, the stranger, the con-man – (but much more) – promises to make it rain for a mere \$100.00

Well, there is just so much more to the story, but I can tell you this – Starbuck brings an end to the drought in all their lives.

He insists, he demands that Lizzie believe in her dreams, in herself! Even the rest of the family find themselves drenched with a torrential downpour.

Starbuck protected Lizzie's dreams, against the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, against her brother Noah.

At one point Starbuck screamed out to her, "*Dream! Dream!*"

I want us to go back to the Christian Story, to a part of that story where Dreamers are out in number. The writer and dreamer of Matthew's Gospel, saw a universal element, a universal thrust to this developing faith called – Christianity.

The wise men sought out this child. (You know the story.) They followed the star. They traveled to Jerusalem to find out about the location of his birth. The wise men were not Jewish, and yet they traveled to see a Jewish infant.

The universal message is present, and not in terms of making everyone just like us! Rather, the message is universal! And the Christ-child reflects God's love, purpose and justice. As Christians, that's our calling! Dreaming and believing in your future!

The "wise men" were dreamers. They were searching for meaning and purpose in life, in their lives.

The story continues. They go to Herod, the King and ask his help in finding their hope, their dream. Herod gives them the direction they seek. He deceives them – "Oh, please send me word of the child's location, so I too may go to him and pay homage. Herod wanted to destroy the Dream – the Christ-child – the incarnation, the embodiment of hope – a new born child – awaiting the infinite possibilities of life!

And how does Matthew's story handle Herod's plan to kill the dream, the Christ-child?

The wise men are warned in a dream to forget about Herod.

Protecting Our Dreams!

Every person needs to live within his/her dreams. And know this, there are those who would destroy our dreams, your personal dreams.

Herod was a killer of dreams. Noah, of the Rainmaker was a killer of dreams.

"Lizzie – give up your dreams and just settle!"

"Drought's a drought and a dream's a dream – nothin' more."

Christmas reminds you of the need to dream – to live into your future!

Has anyone ever tried to kill your dream? Don't let 'em! Don't let 'em!

We have plenty of sleepers, and pragmatists – what we need are more Dreamers!

Mind you – Dreams don't come easy, there are costs, there is pain –

But – Protect Your Dream!
Hold on to Your Dream!

If you know what I'm talking about – *help someone who is dreaming. Encourage them to go forward, to risk, to dream!*

Protect the Dreamers.

Protect your dreams, your hopes – through the vision of Jesus Christ, the new life in a manger!

Amen.