



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
*Pastor Terry's Thoughts of the Week*

## **God's Dreams**

For the next few weeks we will be looking at dreams that God has. They are, of course, good dreams, but they are dreams that we are the people who are called on to carry out.

This week Jesus heals a leper, actually 10 of them, but only one, a Samaritan, comes back to say thanks. The lesson back then was that sometimes the “good people” – the Jews – lived so much by the law that they couldn't react outside the system. The Samaritan, one of the despised people, wasn't so bound by the rules. He gave thanks to the one he knew was the healer.

Sometimes we wonder about what God is doing. We pray for healing for those in our family or for our friends and sometimes those prayers don't “work”. What we mean is that God didn't do what we wanted him to do. We forget that there are a lot of answers to prayers – Yes, no, maybe, not yet, that's not good for you, that's not good for others – the list could go on.

God's dreams are not bound by our insights. We are too limited in our knowledge, in our abilities, in our physical condition to think in the vast ways that are God's ways. I remember the warning: be careful what you pray for. God might say “yes”!

So, how do we catch hold of God's dreams? Some of the native Americans make something called a “dream catcher”. The idea is that it catches bad dreams

and does away with them and catches good dreams and helps us remember them and carry them out. It may be that God is our “dream catcher.”

One of my dreams is peace. Peace for people on earth, peace in my life, peace for those around me. I remember from Isaiah that spears will be turned into plowshares. I think of God’s promises of peace in the life to come. I think, each Sunday, of how we pass the Lord’s peace to each other. Peace is not a bad dream.

I believe that Peace is also a dream of God’s. The problem is, we have a tendency to look at the tools we have in our world as the way to bring that peace home. We still have the spears and arrows. We call them planes and tanks and guns and missiles, but they are still of the spear and arrow variety. We seem not to know any other way. Yet there are other ways.

Many Christians throughout the world are working in many different ways to bring God’s love – the forerunner of peace – into the world. In this congregation we work as best we can and join with others in providing food and clothing to those who have far less than we do. There are those who put their health and lives on the line and do medical work under really bad conditions, who go into places knowing that there is a threat to their lives. There are those who are willing to speak words of peace in places of war.

I believe that these are folk who have grasped onto God’s dream and are doing their best to live it out.

Not everyone can leave home and travel to distant places to help carry out that dream, but with our prayers, money and material support, we join with them in their mission. God has many great dreams and he is not bound by the stuff we have to work with. Grab on to that dream and work the work of God.

**TAZ**

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