

I had a dream that really impacted me. In the dream I realized that I needed to visit my dad. This seemed odd since in the dream he lived below me in a house (in reality he passed away a few years ago and I think about him and miss him every day). In the dream I went to visit him and when I arrived he was overjoyed to see me. He began jumping up and down. When I arrived he was standing between two beds with thick mattresses on them. He jumped from one bed to another and from the second bed out to a porch or veranda. On the porch he had a spotting scope set up on a tripod. I knew in my spirit that he had been looking for a trophy Mule Deer Buck for me. Dad was not a hunter and trophy would have never meant anything to him, but he was wildlife watcher and enjoyed his time observing wildlife a lot. All this time he was talking to me excitedly like a big kid.

In the dream he had spiritual insight into what I really desire in my own heart as a hunter. For many years the Big Horn Ram has been considered the rarest and most regal of the big game trophies of North America, but in recent years many have considered a really big trophy Mule Deer to be the most desirable of the rare of trophies. For me, having just harvested a trophy Big Horn Sheep, the trophy Mule Deer would automatically move to the front of the line as far as desirability. It was as if my dad knew this and had already begun the search on my behalf.

After he jumped from one bed to the other - like a kid - I walked between them through what was a pathway. My dad was crippled all his natural life and in this life could not ever jump. In this dream he was in no way hindered by his earthly limitations. At the end of the passageway it was blocked by raspberry and blackberry bushes outside of the house. The house or room had no walls or ceiling - even though I went down to access the room. There were many berries on the bushes which I could reach from the passageway in the house and I picked many. I noticed many were over ripe, some under ripe, but plenty were just right, both red raspberries and blackberries.

The House.

One interesting aspect of the house is that it was shaped like an “L” with the porch where dad went at the top of the L. I felt that the house being in the shape of an “L” made this a very personal building and I felt the Lord had prepared it personally for me. I thought of John 14:2-4 (AMP) “In My Father's house there are many dwelling places (homes). If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going away to prepare a place for you. And when (if) I go and make ready a place for you, I will come back again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And [*to the place*] where I am going, you know the way.”

The berries and the spot between the two beds was at the inside corner of the L with one bed on each side. I never passed the berries but picked from inside of the house. Dad would look over his shoulder from his spotting scope with a smile in his eyes and was talking to me the whole time like an excited kid, in fact he was speaking so fast I could not understand most of what he said. Even in the dream I knew the dream itself was the message. Later, while I took my morning walk when I pray each morning, I saw a shooting star in the north. It may not have any significance to the dream but I thought it was a sign to me personally.

Now seeing my dad in this dream was such a blessing. I was able to experience him *now*, as he is in the presence of the Lord, without any hurt, physical impairment or limitation. But he was so glad to see me, although in the dream we lived close to one another. I felt the Lord was granting me a special blessing in this to see my dad without any affliction. Dad once told me that his favorite verse was Psalm 119:71, which says, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.” Perhaps there is something in this for all of us. Our afflictions are just for a time. For some of us they last longer than for others, but yet they will pass if we know the Lord. I often think of these verses in Romans chapter five. Rom 5:3-5 AMP, “Moreover [*let us also be full of joy now!*] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance. And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity). And

character [*of this sort*] produces [*the habit of*] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation. Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us."

The significance of the two beds.

Beds are a place to rest, but they also are a place of intimacy. I felt that these two beds represented both of these aspects of relationship with the Lord. I often receive prophetic impartation through numbers, and in this case I thought of two different chapter "threes".

John chapter three speaks of being born again into beginning an intimate relationship with the Lord. In fact I feel the picture we have of Nicodemus sitting closely with the Lord and opening his heart and hearing back the heart of the Lord is a good illustration of what Jesus was speaking of. This was represented by the first bed. It is saying that intimacy with the Lord begins with being led by the Holy Spirit - who does not speak of Himself, but speaks on behalf of the Lord Jesus, with the intent to bring us closer to Him.

The place that came to my mind regarding the second bed was Hebrews chapter three which speaks of rest for God's people.

Heb 3:3, 4, "For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God."

This let me know that the house I was seeing was built by God, but for me, which confirmed the thought I'd had originally when seeing the house shaped as an "L" as I have already mentioned. The entire chapter three of Hebrews deals with entering into His rest which He has reserved for those who obey and seek after Him. Israel rebelled because in their short sightedness they denied God in their hearts and then with their words, when they needed help, forgetting the help He had so graciously

always grated to them. Likewise we have access into His presence by rest, and our heart remains tender by remembering all that He has done up until now. We have confidence that at any time we have access into His presence through His rest.

Another thing I saw instantly was the place that my father met me when I entered the house, it was in the middle spot between the beds. This reminded me of the place that the Lord met Abram in Genesis chapter fifteen, which was in the middle place between the sacrifice. This also was the place where God made the promise to Abram and changed his name to Abraham. It is significant that, while obedience is better than sacrifice, obedience often requires sacrifice. There may be associated costs to entering into intimacy with the Lord and entering into His rest, but He will meet us in that place, and use both intimacy and the rest of God to take us to a higher level.

The significance of the fruit.

I felt there was a message in the fruit. For one thing it was not in the house, but could be accessed from the house and from the place between the beds. As I have just mentioned the place between the beds is a place of sacrifice. In other words there is a cost associated with producing fruit, yet the primary place where our lives will produce fruit may be outside of our house - in the world. I thought that it was interesting that these fruit looked like raspberries and blackberries in which each separate berry looks like a cluster of fruit. This reminded me of the fruit of the spirit in Galatians chapter five where there are nine different fruit mentioned, however, they are listed as singular fruit (not fruits) - as if they are all part of a cluster. The scripture says that "the new wine is found in the cluster" (Is 65:8) and so I understood that as fruit is produced by action it is not limited but actually produces much fruit of different kinds. While in the natural we "reap what we sew" in the spirit we reap what we sew, *as well as extra!* To my mind this is one of the benefits of the fruit of the "Law of the Spirit" spoken of in Romans 8:2. I took note that both raspberries and blackberries are very prolific plants

and can actually take over an area as they can be so aggressive in their growth.

Black and red, the color of the berries, are indicative of repentance and redemption as well as sacrifice, or cost, associated with producing fruit. While I did not see any thorns in the dream, I recognized that both raspberries and blackberries produce thorns. I felt this was appropriate since there are costs associated with producing any type of fruit. This was confirmed a day later when I received a note from a friend on another subject with the saying “A life with love will have some thorns but a life without love has no roses” attached. This was confirmation to me. In light of the fruit I also thought of the tree of life in Revelation 22:2 which produces fruit for healing the nation every month.

The porch .

After reaching the place of sacrifice and meeting, the place of fruit and then of rest and intimacy it was possible to access the porch. There is a verse in John 10 that says Jesus walked in the temple in the porch. Even the uneducated disciples were recognized as being different because they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13), so I believe through showing me the porch in the dream the Lord was showing me the means to access a closer walk with the Lord. Upon searching I also found that the porch represented the place of Peter’s greatest testing before the resurrection, ascension, and receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (Mk 14:68). But it is also the site of some of the greatest miracles after Pentecost (Mk 14; Acts 3; 5). Porches are places where we relax and kick back and visit with friends and family. This is the spot the Lord was taking me to.

The Scope.

The next thing that I think is significant in the dream was the spotting scope. A spotting scope is a lot like a telescope which is primarily used for terrestrial viewing. It may in fact be used for “star gazing” but is generally used for looking at things which are on earth at a far distance in better detail. The dictionary defines scope as “the extent of the mind's grasp; range of perception or understanding; the range or extent of

action, inquiry, etc.; room or opportunity for freedom of action or thought; free play; scope, scope out, meaning to look at or look into carefully; scrutinize; investigate; examine closely."

My dad was looking for a "record book" trophy Mule Deer for me. This is something I myself have been searching after for many years without having harvested one yet. So he was looking for something in the future. I felt that the Lord was showing me through this that by coming into this higher place, the porch, that He would literally show me "things to come" as was promised through the sending of the Holy Spirit.

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." John 16:13.

Through this dream I had many aspects of my walk with the Lord highlighted for my understanding. I was also given a visual "flowchart" which can be used to share this information with others. The Lord is that specific with each of us - the Lord will give us dreams to edify, exhort, comfort and direct us. This dream reminded me that our heavenly Father is a personal God. He knows the desires of our hearts - to see my dad healed and excited, to find the elusive trophy Mule Deer Buck, to build a house exactly for me. God also seeks after His children on a personal level of intimacy - He wants our hearts turned to Him and for us to meet with Him. He will take us higher after our personal meeting with Him - but intimacy is next first step. There will be sacrifice and cost along the way and we will produce fruit along the way, and we will reach the higher place as we continue on and keep our eye "scoped" out on Him. The Father loves us all the time, and desires us to be with Him. As we keep our gaze in the "God" direction we will understand those things as revealed to us by His Spirit.