

Chase the Lion

If Your Dream Doesn't Scare You, It's Too Small

Mark Batterson

The Lion Chaser's Manifesto

Quit living as if the purpose of life

Is to arrive safely at death.

Run to the roar.

Set God-sized goals. Pursue God-given passions.

Go after a dream that is destined to fail

Without divine intervention.

Stop pointing out problems. Become a part of the solution.

Stop repeating the past. Start creating the future.

Face your fears. Fight for your dreams.

Grab opportunity by the mane and don't let go!

Live like today is the first day and last day of your life.

Burn sinful bridges. Blaze new trails.

Live for the applause of nail-scared hands.

Don't let what's wrong with you

Keep you from worshipping what's right with God.

Dare to fail. Dare to be different.

Quit holding out. Quit holding back. Quit running away.

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There was also Benaiah son of Jehoiada, a valiant warrior from Kabzeel. He did many heroic deeds, which include killing two champions of Moab. Another time, on a snowy day, he chased a lion down into a pit and killed it.

2 Samuel 23:20

Selected excerpts

God-sized dreams:

- A God-sized dream will always be beyond your ability, beyond your resources. Unless God does it, it cannot be done! But that's how God get the glory. If your dream doesn't scare you it's too small. It also falls short of God's glory by not giving Him an opportunity to show up and show off his power.
- To an infinite God, all finites are equal. There is no big or small, easy or difficult, possible or impossible. When Jesus walked out of the tomb on the third day, the word impossible was deleted from our dictionary. So don't focus on the five hundred pound lion. Fix your eyes on Lion of tribe of Judah.
- Every God-sized dream has a genesis -- a God-ordained opportunity, a God-given passion. But at some time, you need to raise your spear of faith. That's how the door opens and lets the future in.
- If you want God to do something beyond your ability, try giving beyond your means. It's a great starting point, a leverage point.
- Imagination is God's gift to you. A dream is your gift back to God.
- Your dream is more than a dream. It's a calling. God doesn't call the qualified. God qualifies the called.

Dream ripple effects:

- Our dreams are more intricately woven across time and space than any of us could ever imagine. Your dreams are possible because of the dreams that were dreamed before you. And the domino effect of your dreams will be felt for generations.
- Everything God does through you is a testimony to those who have parented you, mentored you, disciplined you, coached you, and loved you. You are their downline, and they are your upline.
- Your greatest legacy isn't your dream. Your greatest legacy is the next generation of dreamers that your dream inspires – the dreams within a dream.
- A great dream doesn't just make a difference. It inspires dreams to the third and fourth generation.
- Sometimes the seeds of our dreams don't germinate for months or years or decades. But if we plant and water, God will give the increase in due time. Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.
- Sometimes God will put a dream in your heart that is actually for someone else to accomplish. And sometimes there is more joy in watching someone else do it. David dreamed of building a temple, but God said no. God downloaded the plans to David, but it was David's son who would fulfill the dream.

Leadership and Faith:

- Destiny doesn't make appointments. It usually shows up at the door unannounced. And it often knocks quietly, so you have to listen carefully. It shows up in a magazine, in a meeting, in a lecture. It shows up on vacation or on a mission trip.
- Every life is defined by decisive moments, and those moments of decision often dictate the course of decades. That shouldn't make you nervous, not if God is ordering your footsteps. It should fill you with a sense of destiny.
- Our actions and inactions have eternal ramifications. When we fail to take action, we forfeit the future. And just as inaction is an action, indecision is a decision.
- Great leaders possess acute sensitivity to the social, political, technological, and demographic contexts that define their eras and situations. Contextual intelligence is the ability to spot opportunity where others don't. That's what sets leaders apart; that's what sets them up for success.
- When it comes to chasing lions, inertia is enemy number one. Our natural tendency is to think the way we've always thought and do things the way we've always done them. It's hard to break old habits and hard to build new habits. But if you want God to do something new, you can't keep doing the same old thing.
- You can't just pray as if it depended solely on God; you also have to work as if it depended on you. It's your work ethic plus your prayer ethic that will inch you closer to your dream.
- If you wait for God to part the Jordan River, you're going to be waiting for the rest of your life. You have to step into the river and get your feet wet before God will part the river. Faith is taking the first step before God reveals the second step.
- Gratitude is thanking God after he does it. Faith is thanking God before he does it.
- God doesn't always call us to win. Sometimes He just calls us to try. Either way, it's obedience that glorifies God.

Run to the Roar:

- The day you stop dreaming is the day you start dying. The day you start dreaming is the day you really start living.
- Perfect love casts out fear
 - The opposite of love is not hate
 - The opposite of love is fear
 - True love leads to fearlessness
 - It's the love of God that sets us free from the spirit of fear
- God is in the business of helping us overcome our fears, but he often does it by bringing us face to face with our worst fears. He graciously brings us back to the place of failure, and then He not only helps us pick up the broken pieces, but He also puts them back together again.
- Destiny isn't revealed on sunny days. It's usually revealed on snowy days.
- Sometimes the circumstances we're trying to change are the very circumstances God is using to change us. Learn the lessons God is trying to teach you.
- The bigger your dream, the greater investment of time, talent, and treasure it will take to accomplish it. God-sized dreams require more risk, more sacrifice, and more faith.

- The key to dreaming big is thinking long. And the bigger the dream, the longer the timeline. If you're thinking in terms of eternity, you should have some dreams that can't be accomplished in your lifetime.
- If you want bigger dreams, get around dreamers.
- An inheritance is what you leave *for* someone. A legacy is what you leave *in* someone.
- Jesus didn't die just to keep you safe. He died to make you dangerous! So do what you were destined to do. Chase the lion!

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