

WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE

One of the sayings people will see when they visit Walt Disney World is “It is a place where dreams come true.” This slogan serves as a reminder to visitors to this theme park that they will create unforgettable memories with their loved ones. When my daughter was younger, we visited the Walt Disney theme parks on at least four different occasions and still carry many fond memories from our experiences there.

I was reminded this past weekend how a person’s dreams can come true in other places too. My daughter has turned me into a fan of F1 racing. We enjoy watching, together, each race during a F1 season. This past weekend F1 drivers and teams were at Silverstone for the British Grand Prix. Since he was 8 years old, it has always been a dream of British driver Lando Norris to win his home grand prix race.

This past Sunday Lando Norris’ dream came true as the fans were standing to cheer him on as he crossed the finish line in first place. Lando Norris came on to the team radio immediately afterward and said, **“This is a dream, winning at home. It’s beautiful. Thanks for the moment. I will remember this memory always.”** After Lando got out of his race car the joy he was experiencing seeing his dream come true was evident in the hugs and embraces he gave to his parents and members of his racing team. When it came time for Lando to sign the winner’s champagne bottle, he wrote the words, “Dreams do come true.” As a fan of F1 racing, it was truly touching and moving to see Lando Norris’ dream become a reality.

As I reflected upon this on Monday morning it made me think of our Heavenly Father’s dream for us. In a conversation that Jesus had with Nicodemus it was revealed that the Father’s dream for us is as follows:

For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Jesus made it very clear that the Father’s dream for us is that we choose to be in a relationship with Him now and for eternity. In order for God’s dream to become true, we must put our trust and confidence in Jesus to be in charge of our present plans as well as our future ones. We need to remember that Jesus had not crossed the finish line yet in this race when He shared the Father’s dream for us to Nicodemus. Jesus still had many laps to complete during His

public ministry to reach the finish line. The finish line for Jesus was not with the waving of a checkered flag but rather when He spoke these final words from the cross:

IT IS FINISHED

Jesus gave up His spirit and crossed the finish line at that moment, dying for our sins so that we could experience the Father's dream for us to be in a relationship with Him now and for eternity.

For some of us reading this message, perhaps it has been many years since we chose to make Christ our Lord and Savior. I hope we never lose sight of the tears of joy and celebration our Heavenly Father had when we made His dreams come true by entering into this relationship.

As we continue travelling along our racecourse in life heading toward the finish line, may we also not lose sight of two things Jesus did in order to make the Father's dream become a reality. It first took Jesus to be the perfect substitute for our sinfulness by never sinning Himself. Even though Jesus was tempted in every way that we are, He always resisted and said no. Without this consistent choice on His part the Father's dream for us would not have come true. May we follow in Jesus' example when faced with temptation by resisting and saying no to it as we move toward the finish line. The other thing that Jesus did to make the Father's dream come true was to choose to be a doer of His will. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed for another way that could make His Father's dream for us come true other than taking hold of the "Cup of Suffering. "Every time Jesus asked this of His Father, He always said, "***Not My will, but Your will be done.***" Like Jesus may we be seekers and doers of the Father's will until we cross the finish line and rejoice seeing Him face to face.

It was truly touching to see a driver's dream come true this past Sunday watching the British Grand Prix. I hope other drivers will get their chance to have their dreams come true. I also hope everyone reading this message will make God's dream come true by choosing a relationship with Him through Christ both now and for eternity.

Keep Safe and God Bless,

Pastor Dean