

Computer Generated Transcript - So you probably have figured it out by now that Jason is not here I'm the youth slash associate pastor here in every once in a while I get to share with you and I I look forward to it it's a neat opportunity. And I really do I think that God has put a message on my heart for you this morning. That that will be a blessing to you and as I was thinking about the new year as I'm thinking about the start of two thousand and eighteen and reflecting back on on two thousand and seventeen I was kind of God What you know what. What do you want to do what you know what you want to speak to me what you want to speak to this church and it's it's kind of that time of the year where you start thinking about what are some of your plans what are some of the the visions and the dreams that you have for us and I really believe and it was interesting and I saluted to this earlier Jason he spoke last week and he was right on the same lines that we're on and so to me that's kind of a confirmation that God really does want to do something special in individual lives but also in the lives of this this church as a whole and I believe that God wants to give us dreams in eighteen you could see that that's what that's what I really feel like God wants us to be thinking about right now is what. What dreams what does God want to do in this new year and I believe that those dreams are going to be big dreams. I know like and I'll explain that a little bit further here but I believe that God wants to do unimaginable things in our lives I don't just believe that because it's something that I want to believe it's it's in the Bible it's scriptural God wants to do amazing incredible things through us for His glory I want to share this verse. It's a fusions chapter three verse twenty and I love I love the fusion. ENS I just love that book and this is one of my favorite verses is kind of an anthem first of my own life and I want to share it with you right now it's now all glory. All glory to God who is able through his mighty power at work within us to accomplish infinitely more we might ask or think sometimes when we read a verse is easy to kind of like OK what was that what was that I mean say that again. All glory to God who is able through his mighty power at work within us. To accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Do you catch that. It's God's mighty power. Work in us in each one of our lives. It's him working in us it's his mighty power it's who God is. Working in us. Accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think not just a little bit more right this is what we think we can do is not just a little bit more but God can accomplish infinitely more. I don't my mind is big it's beyond us that means it's out of our own abilities it's out of our own comfort zones and out of our own strength areas. I want to accomplish infinitely more. Than we might ask or think. Because we don't even we don't even have the we don't even know what to ask we don't know what to think because it's so far beyond what we think and that's what I'm praying in that's what I'm praying for is I'm personally is as I'm looking for and we're going into this new year that's what I'm praying personally but that's what I'm praying for you as individuals. And as a church I pray that we're a church that God starts to put in Perth dreams in our hearts. Infinitely bigger than we can ever ask or think. How does the accomplish that how does it come to you compass is that by his mighty power at work within us. Once and for why does he use us that he can receive the glory I believe that God wants to put big dreams in our heart now when I see big dreams. It is relative to each person. Because automatically some You're like well what do you know what do you mean by big dreams somebody a big dream. But you might think God Ike there is no way I could share my faith with with a coworker this year. To me or laughing like what that's that's a big dream that's infinitely more than you might ask or think or for some of you might be a big dream this year share your faith share what you believe to actually speak it in words right I am a firm believer that it's our actions a lot of times that are going to be our best ministry but there are times we actually have to share our faith in words with people. So maybe for you this year. It may be that that dream that God puts on your heart. Is to be faithful and to be obedient to share your faith with somebody to see that that might be a big dream that might be a god sized dream for some of you out there today. And for some of you maybe that's completely different for somebody else maybe that dream is pastor in a church of a thousand I don't know I'm not I'm not saying for for somebody specifically here but in general maybe that's a big dream for somebody. To see it's different it's different to each person. I would say this. And it's in this book that. Was written by Mark batter sin and were some of these ideas. That I'm going to share today have come from is called chase the lion

by Mark Paterson. He says if your dream doesn't scare you it's too small. And that's exactly what a fusion is a saying there to. The dream. That God has given you doesn't scare you it doesn't make you a little uncomfortable. Doesn't make you have to depend on him. It's probably too small. Because God wants to display his power. He wants to display who he is for His glory by using us in accomplishing big things through us. If your dream doesn't scare you it's probably too small. I love that line of love that that expression but again I don't want to I don't want to propose that that your dream you know your dream you might share a dream with somebody I don't want to say oh that's not that's not your that's not a God given dream that's not a big dream and I don't want to say that that you know I mean you have to decide what's a big dream for you is what I'm trying to say and it is going to be different for each person what that will look like. So I remember I remember being a kid and this is actually where a lot of the stop process are for me I remember being a kid and even in middle school and in high school. And I remember having like just tons of different ideas and tons of different dreams you know what I mean when you're young you have all sorts of expectations and things that you're into it's a painting and looking forward to in the future right you just this is excitement. There's there's this dreaming that happens when you're young you're like oh man when I grow up I'm going to be this I'm going to do that. We dream soul so much bigger when we're when we're kids or younger then we grow up and when mature. Then we start to have more realistic dreams. And this is more realistic. Why do we do that why do we started to. Some of those bigger dreams and sides are all here that's not that's not really what I can do this is this is real. Low Hello there we are we're back. Into there right along. So as we get older right we begin to you begin to dream last. Night we begin to have more realistic appropriate dreams. In our honestly some of that is healthy to a certain degree right. We cannot say there are some dreams that are childish right that we need to grow out of that we need to mature and grow from. There I would say that as we grow and mature we loose so much of that that ability to dream we lose a too much we stop dreaming altogether. A lot of times that happens because we begin to become fearful we're afraid our insecurities start to hold us back we start to question like I can't I can't do that that's that's too big. A cool mind. We get scared we start to worry about what other people my think. Let the fear of failure in our minds. So we stop dreaming. We start dreaming more realistic in our minds realistic I say that importations because that's what's realistic. I think God doesn't want to limit what he's able to do through us. And we just read he's in. Well to accomplish infinitely more then we might ask for things. Just a little bit but infinitely more than we might ask or think. But let's not limit what God wants to do in our lives. When I see dreams right when I say dreams I want to clarify a little bit when I say the word dreams I'm talking vision right the maybe visions that you have for the future. Plans that you have goals assignments I don't want you just to you know I'm going to use these words kind of interchangeably throughout the morning and I don't want to just think oh he's just talking like a you know just a physical just an actual dream I'm talking about looking beyond and thinking ahead planning for the future what does God have in store for me or what are some dreams that that we have right a lot of us have dreams you have these dreams of having a family someday. You're just like I want to meet that perfect person I want to meet that special someone so we look forward to that. You have a dream of starting a family and having kids maybe you want to have that perfect house. It is big nice perfect house the right things inside of it. Do you want to have that perfect job right as your as you're growing up and as you move forward you're dreaming you're looking ahead I want to have that perfect job. Maybe you want to maybe you want to invent some new technology to be your dream is to cure some disease. Ideas to start a business or to travel the world. Well I think we can identify it right those are dreams that we can relate to. The dreams that a lot of us have or have had in the past and some of the things we've seen happen I'm not here to say that those are bad. Those are bad things those are bad dreams. We do have to look at what is our our motivation for those dreams what is our heart in those dreams let me just say this for an example. What do we want to big house for. Dream have a big house so that someday we can that people can look at our house and be impressed by the size and how nice it is that we dream to have a big house that we can bring people into our home and and spend time with people getting to know them. Ultimately have

an opportunity right to to sharpen each other and to grow each other as our motivation what's our heart in the dreams that we have again a lot of us have these sort of dreams. Again they're not necessarily the wrong dreams or bad dreams but what is our heart in what is our motivation. And here's here's what I want to use one of the things I want to say. It as we surrender our hearts and lives to Christ and become his followers. Is what I think happens we get new dreams and visions. We get God dreams and visions. In our old dreams maybe our dreams of having a big house and having the perfect family right with perfect kids now all of a sudden those old dreams. Redefine God's purpose in his glory see what I'm saying it's about the heart and why you want those things is about the motivation and what you're striving for. I want I mean as we're as we're looking for I want to be people that are dreaming for God's glory right were dreaming dreams go what would you have me do to advance the Kingdom of God. To help lead. Who don't know Christ to him. That's the dream right that's the mission that's the plan the goal that we should as believers as people who claim faith in Christ that is what should drive us at the front that is what should be the the umbrella or the overarching dream is to see people come to know Jesus. Matthew twenty eight verses eighteen through twenty. Business this this Prater purpose is greater vision is greater dream that as believers this is what we should adapt or dot for our for our own lives. Does then Jesus came to them and said All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me to Jesus. Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations goal. Make disciples of all the nations go share the message that you understand about me with the world right that becomes your mission that becomes your guiding dream. If you're if you're even starting to if you're questioning I What would you have me do as a believer this should be the first thing that pops to my obviously growing a relationship with Jesus yes that's personally that's important bar Simonds are greater are greater dream to reach the last. Prize. Is baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you and surely I am with you always to the very end of the age. At needs to become a. Dream that guides us initially one of my praying for then for you is I'm praying this. With that understanding I believe God wants to give us individual dreams and ideas to complet to accomplish that greater purpose. That we're all on this mission we're all fulfilling this this dream to reach the world for the for Christ's right to May. Disciples. As individuals I believe God wants to put ideas he wants to put dreams in your hearts and how to accomplish that that greater purpose. Each one of us has unique gifting is he's going to put different ideas of how to how to do this right though the message of the Gospel stays the same but the approach right the method as to how we're going to reach the world is going to change. I believe God That's where we come into play that's where God is going to speak ideas he's going to speak dreams and visions into your life to help accomplish this greater purpose. And sort of friends that God would give you as individuals he would give me and he would give this church. Dreams and visions and goals as to how we can help accomplish this greater purpose. Reaching people for Christ. And I mentioned I mention this book chase the lion by by Mark Paterson we actually wrote this book as a staff a while ago and as I was thinking about this like I said when I started thinking about this whole idea of dreams and how God put new dreams new ideas in my heart this is this this book popped into my head because Mark Paterson the whole book is about pursuing those those God sized dreams in your life. He talks and he uses this description of chasing a lion right he uses this description of chasing a lion on a snowy day into a pit. Killing that lion. As an example of how we need to pursue the God says dreams in our lives it's scary it's overwhelming and it's terrifying but that's what God wants to do and that story about chasing the lion is actually a story of one of King David's mighty men. Was was his name. And he talks about how this was all in preparation. Healing this. Killing this lion facing this lion in his life and also mentions to how he killed two more bite. More bites that were you know people that were champions that were feared feared enemies. When I was credited for killing these two more bites and he was credited for killing this lion. Chasing down this line. I don't know about you but if I was if I was confronted with a five hundred pound lion. Only they do two things. Turn and immediately run as fast as I could in the opposite direction and I know I'm not alone I say that I know I'm not alone I said I know a lot of you would be there right next door you probably pushed me over so you could

get away and I would eat me instead of you. Or you just fall over you just faint and fall over in the wind which is each you for lunch. Most of us don't look at a five hundred pound lion and just decide yeah let's go for it let's do this and then chase down the lion on a snowy day into a pit. Kill it and that's what when I did. What this this mighty meant. What he did. This was all in preparation God had given him a dream. Come alongside King David and to help King David fulfill his God given dream. Chasing down this lion was part of the preparation that prepared him. Become body guard the leading body guard for King David. The point is that a lot of us if we were if we're honest with us when we're talking about these dreams we're talking about God give me these gods these gods as dreams he's going to put He's got sized dreams in our heart. It's going to feel an awful lot like God's asking us to chase down a line. Going to feel an awful like gods asking us to chase down a five hundred pound Why. Most of us want to run the other direction God you ask me to do this I can't I'm going to run I'm pale and it's too scary it's too big. Remember what I said earlier in a fusions. Eye is mighty power at work within us. Table to accomplish more than we might ask or think. But that God can receive the glory. He wants to give us big dreams. He wants us to chase down those lines. Because it's an opportunity for us. I don't know that's a question we'll have to ask them when we get to heaven right. Basing down a five hundred pound lion on a snowy day. Into a pit and killing it the size and I think this is the point you need to take away these are the size and the kind of dreams I believe God wants to put in our hearts into our lives he wants us. To face our fears he wants us to do things that are outside of our comfort zone. Isn't he receives the glory in the credit. And if your dreams are too small. If your dreams stone scare you they're probably too small. Is that your thought I guess we're we're entering this new year and I'm and I'm I'm saying guys when you pray and we need to be asking God to give us to give us these God says dreams some of you are like I don't know John I don't I don't know what that looks like I don't know what that would be. Let's say this. I was somebody. Who has a dream. Or Patterson he talks about that in his book to really follow somebody who has a dream. Oftentimes as you follow somebody else who has a dream if they've been given a god given a God given dream a big dream a big assignment you come along and you're helping that person you're helping to accomplish and to fulfill their dream. Then what happens in your own life is a lot of times as you're doing this as you're stepping up and you're and you're saying all right I'll just I want to help I want to serve I begins to Perth ideas visions and dreams in your own life. That's what he wants for us. So if you don't feel like God has given you a dream of your own follow somebody who has a journey I want to highlight I want to highlight another another character in the Bible and I like this character because he's an ordinary person. As I am an ordinary person. And that's why I related to why I relate so well to a fusions chapter three and why I relate to a character like Stephen. Is I'm one of those people that I went God asks me. To do something I immediately am like God I am not qualified it's like staring down the lion I got I can't do this. I don't have the strength. In my eyes. So when Like for example when I when I came into ministry when I started doing ministry I was one of those people. Fully trusted that God wants to use the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. I did say God is you you can do what you say you're promises infusions that you're able to accomplish infinitely more than I might ask or think God All right fine I'll do it sign me up. Even though I feel highly unqualified most days. The dream the thing he asked me to do to. Scary it can be terrifying and overwhelming and fill in the blank to all those things. But as I stepped out and I've done that because I've seen that work in my own life. Is that that honestly I wouldn't have thought. And I wouldn't have even known to ask. I'm thankful and I'm I'm glad that I did. And I really believe that is God gives you dreams and as you are willing to take courage in the face you know maybe what's stopping you or preventing you from from pursuing those things I believe in that God is going to he's going to blow up in your life in a good way. Is you trust him you're going to see God do things that you're just like this has to be you working because I know it's not me. No it's not me. But I like the story of Stephen because you see what was going on is in Acts Chapter six The early church was just getting started right Jesus had ascended into heaven he had he said wait in Jerusalem until you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit when you see that baptism you're going to you're going to have power to be my witnesses to the ends of the earth and they

were starting to live out that dream that we just talked about right in Matthew talk about going out making disciples of the nations and in Acts a talk about going in and go to the ends of the earth. So they're doing this the twelve the twelve apostles they're there live in the south they're living out the dream that God put in their and their hearts in their lives to do. As they're growing in numbers and that's what happened the church was was growing like crazy people were were saying yes to crazed there was miracles that were happening God was using using people to preach and to speak the word about about Jesus to people. And people receive a healing in their life and the numbers are to their were being added daily. But in a crazy way what happened is the numbers were growing there was this need they were there was they had a food distribution program to give to the widows. And it wasn't being managed well people were started kind of grumbling a plan like this isn't fair and so they're like we need to we need to get some people to help out with this this dream that we have. So they recruit seven people one of which is Steve. An ordinary guy. But he he says yes to this and he does this. And this he's coming along when I said if you don't have a dream if you don't have if you don't feel like God has given you something to do you don't feel like he's speaking to you specifically don't work with somebody else's dream and that's what Stephen does here. He gets on board with what's already happening and he says here I'll do my part. He's helping with the food distribution program. Out of us when I want to start of the begin I start talk about dreams are like really that's the that's the big God size dream you know that's it. For Steven that was that's where he was at right there he did it God was using him it he gets X. extra explanation of just being this this man of faith and this this guy that really was just known for his love and zeal for God. He was preaching and he was he started to preach to the crowds that he started to and he was going around healing people that were sick. He starts to take on his own dream his own God says dream God starts to use him in it in a different capacity it started with helping out with the Food Program. Starts using he actually has this opportunity. To really stand up for his faith and to face the wind in his life and he's confronted by a crowd of P.. People he they start asking questions and he's he's kind of refuting and say no this is what it is and he was actually kind of winning the debate the argument and then some people make up a lie about Steve. To get him killed. As they're making up these lies and as they're they're accusing him of this his face begins to just shine brightly like physically begins to glow. Because of the presence of God That's that's on him and in his life. And ultimately he is in that same and that same story he's martyred for his faith becomes the first martyr. Of the faith. To see it started with a bigger dream. Right the bigger the bigger picture like I said in the beginning to reach the world for Christ. Make disciples. Of the ends of the earth it starts with that as the as the main overarching dream. Twelve Apostles were were leaving that and they were living out that job the believers that were coming alongside of them begin to live out that dream and you see Stephen's just he comes on board with the dream that was already there but then God starts to give him his own assignments his own purposes omission. You might say well he was killed I mean that was it. Oh he gets this this guy says Freeman That's it it's over. Been Stephen and Stephen dying of martyrs death. That actually allows the gospel to go for people scatter the believers and in Jerusalem leave Jerusalem and they're scattered and they go they start going to the ends of the earth. You see that's the beauty of a dream is sometimes you don't understand we don't even see how it's all connected. These people start to carry out Stephen's dream and they start to share his dream of sharing Christ with the world in the message of the Gospel is going out. And as I read the story right I mean. If you really want to if you really want to break down I start reading the story. There's a new years later and I read a story about a guy who is willing to lay down his life for praise I'm inspired and I'm encouraged and it causes faith to rise up in me. Now Stephen's dream today is still living and. If you don't have a dream right now if God hasn't given you a clear dream dark place by following somebody else's dream and serving alongside of their dream then watch as God begins to to give you your own dreams he begins to loom in it what he wants for you. And I've seen that happen in my own life. I want to use the pond hockey tournament as an as an example of a dream of my own. How that's kind of a dream within a dream within a dream. And I know some you know I don't get it John you talk about this plan argue that there's so many elements the thing like when I first started when

God first put his dream in my heart I honestly believe it started with a guy named Relf Harris and his dream. One thousand nine hundred forty four this guy Relf Harris said We need students. Understand the purpose of missions giving let's let's create a program an opportunity for students to do this it was called speed the line. To God gave him a dream. He started that he was and that was probably a lie in for him when he first started to follow that dream it was probably scary it was probably too big and probably got I don't I don't know how it's going to work out. Then years later millions of dollars have gone to missions students all across the nation have have understood and begun to understand the purpose of giving to missions. Have Been birth out of that idea because the students understand what it means to give to missions. Financially they also start to understand Wait a minute I might be called to be a missionary. To Relf Here's his dream back in one thousand nine hundred four. Mark Dean catches that that that vision that dreams are all due I.D.'s now or superintendent he catches that dream he shares that with the youth pastors everywhere he goes me to be people like him to speak like we need to be people that help equip missionaries to do the work that they're doing. Then I'm hanging around with a bunch you pastors really hit I could do this we can do this is a youth group to raise money for missions to do this to raise money for missions. So I started by just following you see what I'm saying I started following the vision the dream the Marquis and had I started following the vision the dream that other youth pastors had for speed the light. As I began to do that is a god of some puts is this idea in my heart why don't I want to do is upon Archy Turman people in Grand Rapids love hockey it's an easy sell. I don't we do this so God puts a dream in my heart. To see others the dream within a dream within a dream is this dream you know as I'm pursuing this dream Also I start to realize this this is actually bigger than just be the light. Does actually helping to fill the dream of our church dream of our church to reach our community. Building relationships. But we reach our community if we're not in the community but we reach the last war never around the laws. This Panahi to Panahi is a tool. To reach people I would never in that you would never be able to to reach or to talk to have have hundreds of people come to know Christ. Through this tournament yet no. I believe that believe that this is the beginning to a dream I believe that this is going to continue and I think that this is going to be an avenue or we get to meet people. We have to point to people's lives. People are going to come to know Jesus. For something like a upon how you turn. To dream that God put in my heart. The gods that's put dreams in my heart growing up you know it wasn't just as a pastor I was in high school. I got saved as like a you know I really gave my heart to Christ as a junior a junior in high school. At that point I mean I knew about God but I wasn't really living for God as a junior in high school I grabbed a hold of my heart away that I was like you're your real God and you want to have a relationship with me and I understood that. And I and I wanted that for my life. As I began to do that God began to put ideas that began to put dreams in my heart guys guess what some weren't huge like pasturing a church of of hundreds or thousands of people that wasn't my initial dream. My initial dream was how can I reach my school. We reach our school for Christ I was a dream that God put in my heart. I was a lion I'll tell you what that is a lion that's staring down a five hundred pound lion when God ask you to do something to reach your peers at school the scary thing. Big dream so a group of us so what can we do we started praying on our lockers I don't see this to pray see this because God put a dream her heart. Was scary. And every time we did that we met in the morning before school in front of our life and it was fun to be my brothers like we were twins were the same last names were by each other through that metaphor of our locker to me that you were there at times. Your friends were praying first school. But honestly there was there was some special that happened as a youth pastor now looking at you know you're our youth group and looking what what they're up again. We had like an awesome group of friends that were from different youth groups I went to a different church every was a different we had people from different churches got it birth something in our heart where we were we were teenagers that wanted to see. A move in our lives we believe that I want us to to do things for him. So that there was there was a as a ton of teenagers that were just excited about the faith we'd meet at people's houses and spent time worshipping God. With a CD. Popping a CD. That it was putting dreams in our heart then. That was that was a godsend dream it was a dream or we

01-07-18

need to depend on God to show. What are some dreams that God's putting on your heart. That's my prayer is that God would put names in our hearts to individuals. As a church. That we would be the greatest enough. To look that lion facing grab it by the beard the main. Wrestler down to the ground. Kill it. Because that's what we need that's what got to ask and to do. That's the challenge that's the that's the call and I believe God has already put dreams of people's heart. I believe that God is going to you heard Jason say that last Sunday I think it's it's awesome that we're both at on our own we're both feeling the same thing for our church. It's a cool thing. I'm excited about that too let's be a church that's people individuals let's be a church dreaming big ape. His dreams are to be different sized for those dreams are to look differently for different people. It's all for it's all for the Kingdom of God All of the people come to know Jesus. I just want to pray. And. Goes out this morning. Other. Prayer right now. As we sit here in this place. I pray that we would hear from you. And I pray that you begin. The birth ideas. Birth dreams. Our hearts or. There's going to be scary it's going to seem overwhelming it's going to seem like we're not adequate able to do it I. Believe you want our dreams to scarce a little bit. Because that's when you get to show up. When you get to show your power. And your glory. And work within us or. All honest afresh this morning. I believe that you want to use people in this church I believe that you want to use this church. Reach this community. But you. Give us dreams. Visions give us goals plans ideas. Simonds. Just pray in Jesus' name. Meant. He meant. Guys have a great.