

Kingdom reality.

I was so saddened this week when I heard that 7 people had committed suicide and the thought expressed by the news reader was that it could be ascribed to the tough economic times.

- If you were handed a different script of your life, how would it be different?

With the plethora of reality TV shows we have become obsessed with watching artificial situations and calling it reality TV. The amazing race, Big Brother, Makeovers,

- The question is what is reality?
- Is reality truth? Is truth reality?

In the bible Jesus is quoted,
“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” – John 8:32

In other words the broken reality of the past can be dealt with as we embrace a new truth In Christ.

Leadership guru Max DuPree states that
“the first responsibility of a leader is to define reality”.
Philosopher William James, the greatest discovery of the twentieth century is the power of human thoughts to create reality.

Everything was first THOUGHT up by somebody and then created. Everything started as a future sketch or vision in the mind. Believing this future sketch will happen can be considered to be FAITH. If this is TRUTH, then faith becomes much more exciting and actually imperative.

The more specific we are with faith, the more specific our reality can become.

What is David actually saying when he says:
Psalm 20 ⁴ May He (God) give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

He is saying: May the Lord take those things that exist in the reality of the unseen and make them visible.

What would your future look like if you could redefine reality?

Living by whose script?

There are other things that can affect our reality. Each person consciously or subconsciously lives out a script that he or she has been given. The question is: Who wrote it? Some act out their parts in gusto and fervour – but sometimes parts need to be changed.

We need to redefine the scripts that others have written for us, where we have been defined by a terrible set of circumstances, by a bad past, this humanistic culture that has even affected my DNA.

Making a success of our lives is the art of changing parts or rewriting scripts – of redefining reality.

We need to look again at the stories we are living and ask if this is the best we can do.

Someone once observed we are all like nomads, dragging the same tired camels from town to town. Our camels can be stories or even excuses.

- What old stories, like camels, do you drag with you? What did you learn and how will it affect your life?
- Do you think you are pre-destined for mediocrity?
- What do you call your camel, what's his name? I've met some camels with the strangest names like:
 - Mammasfault,
 - Gotnoeducation,
 - Impoor,
 - Apartheiddittome,
 - Iwasmolested,
 - Imfat,.....

We have the opportunity today to shoot a selfish, sorry for myself, mememememe camel today.

Many don't realize that the essence of Christianity is that each person is basically given a new start – a new script – a new reality. Here is what it says in the bible about changing our realities.

2 Corinthians 5: ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation (kainos - recently made, fresh, recent, unused, unworn); old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Paul, the man who wrote this, started as a religious and vengeful murderer. He became one of the greatest men of the bible, changing history.

Thieves become guests in paradise.

Tax collectors changing the lives of entire communities.

Prostitutes become divine examples of love.

We have new realities because of Christ's divine belief in you and me. The Bible can be considered a new script for us that created new realities through new truths.

The question is will we let these truths set us free?

This is written to a people in slavery. It could be just our situation.....
Jer 29 ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity.

It was never the Lord's plan just to set the slaves free, they were released to occupy territory, live in His Kingdom.

We are usually in slavery because we have missed the plot, living from the wrong script.

Our broken reality is usually built upon selfish motivations –

- my happiness and wellbeing,
- my property and possessions.
- My family and it's prosperity.
- my future and it's security.

None of these has been promised for us as a *primary* new truth.

This Scripture in Jer 29 was written in Kingdom context.

Matt 6 ²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? ²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Kingdom has to be our primary reality.

Summarise:

- Rename your camels, some might need to kill them.
- Redefine your reality in the context of the Kingdom of God.
- Redefine reality according to God's Word..