



STEP INTO A NEW DAY What Is Vision?

Day One

An Introduction: The Elephant in the Room

If you're anything like me you get weary of hearing about concepts or ideas that are nothing more than hype, with little to no substance. They are time wasters, distractions and overall morale busters! Consequently, over time, due to multiple attempts and failures along with empty commitments, we can develop a reluctance to reengage or get behind anything new. Just so you know, I completely understand.

A well known concept that you could very easily group into the, 'wearisome' category are the leadership processes that surround vision. I have spent time in environments where even the mention of the words, vision or mission, initiated eye rolls and push back. This doesn't surprise me.

People/groups are tired of hearing that they need, "A fresh vision," only to engage the process to eventually be let down by statements and strategies that are the equivalent to catch phrases. This is especially true in church culture. We could go as far as to say, that has been true about our church in the past. Therefore, as a leadership team we understand any apprehensions and we fully embrace the challenges they could potentially pose.

However, in part, the collective tension we bump up against is produced by a biblical imperative given to the Prophet Habakkuk:

I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what He will say to me Then the Lord replied; "Write down the vision and make it plain so that others may run with it. For the vision awaits an appointed time... Habakkuk 2:1a,2-3a

Solomon, the wisest man to ever live, outside of Christ states:

Where there is no vision, the people perish - Proverbs 29:18

When you stack it up, vision is a non-negotiable biblical imperative and a necessity for any individual or group who aspires to healthy growth and lasting, sustainable, impact. However, vision on its own isn't enough. To make a vision reality, it requires leadership, commitment, consistency and the grace of God to fill in the cracks. Oh and did I mention it takes work? The kind of work characterized as blood, sweat and tears.

Collectively, our leadership team fully understands the process and what it takes to bring a long-term, God-breathed vision to fruition from first-hand experience. This time will be different. It won't be without challenges. It won't be perfect. There will be adjustments. But together, the Lord will undoubtedly make an impact for years to come if we're willing to enjoy and trust His process.

On behalf of Knox Leadership,



Pastor Jason Cartier

Day 1

The Birth Place of Vision

In the late 1940's a young American evangelist, Bob Pierce, hosted a series of large outreach rallies in China where he witnessed the wartime destruction of hospitals, schools, and churches. On his trip, he met Tina Hoelkeboer, a missionary teacher who presented him with a battered, abandoned child. Unable to care for the child herself, Tena asked Pierce, "What are you going to do about her?" Bob, heartsick, gave the woman his last five dollars and agreed to send the same amount each month to help the woman care for the child. Bob Pierce went on to found World Vision so the same kind of help could be offered to impoverished, war affected, needy children around the globe.

World Vision, an international youth aid organization serving those in greatest need, in 100 countries, was the result of Bob Pierce's heartbreak. What break's your heart? Injustice? Human sex trafficking? Racism? Greed? Corruption? Addiction? Heartbreak is essentially vision in the making. Anyone who is emotionally involved - frustrated, brokenhearted or even angry is a candidate for a vision.

Vision is born in the soul of a man or a woman with the inability to accept things the way they are. That inability catapults people beyond the realm of passive concern into action. Action that is derived from a conviction of how things could be or should be in light of the current reality. That conviction gives way to urgency, energy, resourcefulness, focus and determination related to a vision or mental picture of how different things could be or should be. Burden is the birthplace of vision.

A God-ordained Vision

Have you ever prayed, “God break my heart for what breaks yours?” If so, you have essentially invited the Lord to paint a picture of what could and should be according to His heart and purpose. That consistent, fervent prayer has the ability to align your life with what the Lord wants to accomplish in this present age.

A God-ordained vision is birthed in the same manner as we discussed previously. However, the outworking differs. We move forward with a heaven based confidence understanding that our burden is His burden. Our vision is God’s vision. And whatever the Lord builds He provides for.

God Had a Vision of What You Should Be

Think about the implication of the following verse:

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them - Ephesians 2:10

You are His workmanship! If we were in church this is one of those instances when I would ask you all to repeat this with me (*you’re thinking - man I don’t like it when he does that*). Do you know what that means? It means that you, your life, your salvation, was a burden that was on the heart of God! You are the product of God’s vision. God has decided what you could be and should be. You are the outcome of someone / something God envisioned. And through Christ He has brought about, and continues to bring about, changes in you in accordance with the picture of what you could and should be.

Think With Me

What community issue or aspect of your personal life grips your heart right now? To clarify - I’m not referring to your subjective, bias complaints or opinions on how things should be. I am referring to those burdens that are of moral and spiritual consequence. Ask yourself the following questions:

- What’s has your attention right now?
- What keeps you up at night?
- What would be the solution to the problem?
- What should be?

Do you see a connection or correlation with what God is up to in the world?
How does your picture of a preferred outcome support God’s activity in the world?