

The Wonder of Vision

Introduction:

There is much to be said about the wonder of vision. To some degree or another we all enter into this life as a wonder of the Creator. As we grow and mature we tend to see and experience life one marvel at a time. We are amazed at...

Sometimes when we are born into this world, things don't always go well for us because of the fall of mankind into sin. Helen Keller was born deaf and blind and struggled greatly in her life, however, she overcame her challenges and became the most well-known handicapped person of her day. She became an author, lecturer and an activist in her day. She is quoted as saying, "It is a terrible thing to see and have no vision."

This morning we are going to look at the wonder of vision, not eyesight or 20/20 vision, but the vision and purpose of God in our lives that inspires us to greatness, to a future and a hope.

There are a number of key ideas I want to share with you this morning around the wonder of vision and the sense of passion and strength it brings to our lives. Firstly, vision often comes with sensations in the spiritual and surprises in the natural. We feel and discern the Spirit of God; he amazes us with hope for the future. We begin to walk into the vision and the future only to be surprised in the natural. Let me give you an example...

Joseph saw a vision... **Gen 37:2-11**

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

⁵Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

⁹Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" ¹¹And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

Firstly, Joseph is thrilled with the vision for the future... He was aware in part of God's purpose for his life and boldly shares this with his brothers and family.

However, his brothers hated him, thwarted Joseph's vision and throw him into captivity...

What his brothers did was evil but it was God who made sure their future was good...

Secondly, vision brings out the optimist in us. It is awesome to be around someone with vision. They are full of confidence and hopefulness. They are a joy to be around and tend to brighten up everyone else's day. This is a wonderful experience as related to vision. No matter what the circumstances are these visionary people have the "faith to believe attitude". It is said that attitude is everything; this is especially true with regards to vision. An optimistic attitude is worth its weight in gold. On the other hand a pessimistic attitude is like a lead ball around your leg. One looks forward to the future and the other is constantly looking back.

Illustration: in the dessert there are hummingbirds which feed on the nectar of colourful flowers, promoting life and a future, while vultures feed on what is dead and rotten.

Lastly this morning, vision is the courage to do. This is the most challenging part of experiencing a vision from God. To see a vision is easy for most, to be optimistic is a little more difficult but putting a vision into action takes great courage. Being aware of a vision and having the right attitude towards the vision is mostly between you and God, but when it comes to putting the vision into action it involves people.

- Joshua displayed the courage of vision when he said "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
- Peter displayed the courage of vision when he said "Lord if that is you, let me come to you walking on the water."
- Paul displayed the courage of vision when he said "If God be for us, who can be against us."

One of the best examples in the Scripture of the courage and action of vision is found in Nehemiah. Nehemiah receives a vision from God and puts his faith into action by going to the King seeking the restoration of Jerusalem. Then his courage is put to the test as he rallies the faithful in Jerusalem. Next his courage is tested by the opposition of the enemies of God. Then his courage is tested by becoming the leader the people needed to move forward into a future and a hope.

In Conclusion:

I believe the Lord has a vision for each of us today. I know it is easy to get discouraged and to give up on being available to God to be used in seeing the vision come to completion. I also know that unless we are moving in that direction, we cannot be content in life.

God wants us to experience the wonder of a vision, personally and corporately. He wants us to see and become aware in the spirit of the great works he has prepared for those who love him. He wants us to be full of optimism and a faith to believe attitude. Remember that little children's song – My God is so Big, so Strong and so Mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do... Lastly, he wants us to be courageous and put the vision into action, step by step, allowing him to lead us into a future and a hope.