

BEING A DISCIPLE: Vision

Proverbs 29:18

ESV Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.

NLT When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.

KJV Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

NIV Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.

NASB Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.

NKJV Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

To summarise, where there is no vision people: -

- Cast off restraint
- Run wild
- Perish
- Unrestrained (are all over the place)

Problem

- No vision
- Confused vision
- Wrong vision
- Another vision
- Selfish vision
- Ungodly vision

Vision

There is a BIG difference between vision and strategy.

VISION: where and why? People lose their WAY when they lose their WHY!

STRATEGY: how and what?

Some questions about Kingdom vision

- Is it real? E.g. From the life of Abraham.
- It begins with God
- It must be in your heart

- It must be bigger than you
- It must bless and include others
- It must be about eternity
- It must be according to His timing
- Is it relatable?
- Can all people connect to it?
- Is it retainable?
- Is it simple enough to be remembered?
- Is it repeatable?
- Can it be easily clarified by anyone?
- Is it relational?
- Is it rewardable?

God-given vision brings glory to God and fits us into His eternal purpose.

This is how Jesus turned a crowd into a following. He gave them a reason to live far above their personal needs, happiness and well-being.

Our vision as a church can best be understood through the following two scriptures.

The Great Command to love

Matthew 22:34-40

34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

The Great Commission to go

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This can be summarised in the following vision statement.

Our vision: To know Christ and to make Him known!

There can be no greater focus and pursuit than to know Christ. Jesus first, last and always! Then, from knowing Him, we are called to make Him known. We are often rudderless (or *bandeloos* in Afrikaans) because we've taken our focus off Jesus!

When we make our life about Him, then our ministry will be about Him!

We see the heart of this vision in the following scriptures.

2 Corinthians 11:1-7

1 I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! 2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. 5 Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. 6 Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things. 7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge?

1 Corinthians 2:2

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Philippians 3:10-11

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

2 Corinthians 10:12-11:4

12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves as and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. 13 We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you. 14 We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ. 15 Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand, 16 SO that we can preach the Gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in someone else's territory. 17 But, "Let the one who boasts boast IN the Lord." 18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

This calls for unity around this vision, then the process of discipleship moves forward powerfully.

2 Corinthians 12:14-18 NLT

14 Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek your possessions, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. 15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved. 16 But be that as it may, I did not burden you. Nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you by cunning! 17 Did I take advantage of you by any of those

whom I sent to you? 18 I urged Titus, and sent our brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? No! For we have the same spirit and walk in each other's steps, doing things the same way.

- The same spirit, walking in each other's steps, doing things the same way - all united around knowing Christ and making Him known
- Are we representing and reproducing our God-given vision? We do this by: -
- Knowing it
- Meditating on it
- Having it in our hearts
- Praying for it
- Pursuing it in obedience to God
- Living it
- Sharing it or making it known