

Reaching the Lost with a Vision

Introduction:

1. We have discussed already that God is the visionary but we are His workman to carry out His plans.
2. God has given us rules and parameters to work in but has left it up to His body on how to get the gospel news out into the hands of the people. We have many principles that need to be applied when it comes to vision.
3. Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25)

Discussion:

I. Principle –Luke 14:25-35 (We need true Disciples before we can do any “Discipling”)

- A. Jesus’ call for true disciples (25-27)
 1. Jesus must be our number one propriety (nothing else should get in the way) (26)
 2. Jesus gives His disciples a sense of ownership to their salvation and life (27)
 3. If we are not willing to count the cost of true discipleship then we will be lost.
- B. Jesus calls for His disciples to have vision (28-33)
 1. Do you have what it takes to finish the project (material, manpower, time, and energy).
 2. A disciple who has no vision is setting himself up for failure and for ridicule of himself, Christ, and the church. (1 Corinthians 6:17-20; 2 Corinthians 5:20, 21)
 3. Without vision and proper planning we have the ability to start something but might not be able to finish. We then must surrender and give up. (31-32)
- C. A useless disciple becomes useless in the kingdom (33-35)
 1. Those who are not willing to sacrifice it all for Christ cannot be His disciple
 2. If we do not properly plan and have vision we become like tasteless salt
 3. We are thrown out because we are not needed

II. Pattern –Nehemiah’s Example (Once we have men dedicated to work, we can accomplish God’s will)

- A. When Nehemiah figures out there is a problem he begins the process of planning.
 1. He first prays to God for success and compassion (Neh. 1:1-11)
 2. He searches out the land himself (Neh. 2:1-16)
 3. He gathers together men and they decide to rebuild the wall
- B. Nehemiah took his vision and put it into action
 1. They knew God was on their side and put their hands to the work (18)
 2. When the first sign of opposition arose, they did not give up but presses on (19)
 3. Throughout the work, they remembered that God was the one who gives success. (20)
 4. They completed the wall and all nations around them lost confidence because they knew God had helped them build it. (Neh. 6:15-16)

III. Practicality –What does that look like today?

- A. We as the body of Christ need to be true disciples before we can save anybody
 1. We grow from the inside out. It begins in the congregation.
 2. Then we can be true light bearers and true tasteful salt.
 3. God has put the spread of the gospel into the hands of His disciples, we need to spread it!
- B. We need to have a vision and a mind to accomplish the vision to reach the lost
 1. God has given us a general command to seek and save the lost.
 2. It is up to His church to find different ways of how to do that.
- C. The world today is a different world than in the first-century
 1. We have faster ways of communication- we need to use it
 2. We have more effective ways of mass reproducing materials- we need to use it
 3. One thing remains the same, the work is plenty but the workers are few!!

Conclusion:

1. Vision, is more than just looking to get people in the door; but it is trying to save souls
2. “Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.” Joel A. Barker
3. God had the ultimate vision and completed action in mind when He sent His only begotten Son to die for the Lost. We continue to look to God and Christ for our example on how to live our lives.