

BIRTH OF A VISION

Vision #5

9-17-06

***Nehemiah. 1:1-5a**

5 Basic building blocks to a vision: (2 today)

I. VISION BEGINS AS A CONCERN

A. A God-ordained vision will begin as a concern.

1. You will **hear or see** something that **gets your attention**
2. **A thought related to the future will generate emotion**
3. **Something** will **bother** you about **the way things ARE** or the **WAY they are**

HEADED.

4. Unlike other passing concerns - **these will stick with you** (day & night)

* Not a casual concern

5. You won't be able to let them go because they won't let you go!

B. Multiple visions for your life but they started out as a CONCERN.: (outward life, inward life, upward life)

1. Career-
2. Finances-
3. Spouse
4. Children
5. Ministry

* What concerns do you have for those areas?

Has your heart been broken - thoughts of what is rather than what could be.

II. VISION DOES NOT NECESSARILY REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ACTION Neh. 1:1 & 2:1 (4 mos.)

* Developing or discovering a vision for a particular area of our lives takes time.

- It is a PROCESS (sometimes agonizing)
- "Time is a wasting"- old cliché...
- If we aren't moving NOTHING is going on... Wrong

Three important things happen while we wait:

A. The vision matures in us

1. Not all burdens are **VISION MATERIAL**
2. Gives us a chance to examine our **EMOTIONS** & sort through minor concerns
3. Immature vision is **WEAK**
4. After all vision is about CHANGE
5. Like a baby preemies have a hard time surviving outside the womb

B. We MATURE in preparation for the vision

Phil 2:12-13 "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out** your own salvation with fear and trembling. 2:13 For it is God **which worketh in you** both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure."

** He is working in you to prepare you to ACT on His purposes

** Initially vision exceeds your competency.

Phil. 4:14 "Do all things **without** murmurings and disputings"

Two examples:

1. Moses- Right idea wrong timing - kill one Egyptian at a time

- University of Sinai (40 years 10 for grade) (Paul 3 years in Arabian Desert)
- Took Moses 40 years to grow into the vision God had for him
- 2. Our hero Nehemiah gets off with 4 months (Neh 1:1 & 2:1)
 - But he had to WAIT nonetheless.

* **Can you relate?** Do you wake up every morning & the circumstances have nothing to do with the vision you sense from God?

* **Your in good company:** **Moses** followed sheep; **Joseph** in a dungeon; **David** years following sheep; **Nehemiah** spent years serving a king that had help destroy his homeland.

* Jesus had to wait 40 days & then 3 1/2 years to accomplish his vision.

Note: There **seems to be a correlation between how long** you have to wait & **the magnitude** of the **task to which you are called.**

C. God is at work *behind the scenes* preparing the way

1. Remember you are one part of the large puzzle.
2. We are taking part a massive assault that began a dark afternoon on a hill just outside Jerusalem.
3. God's vision for you life is much bigger than you.
 - * Nehemiah certainly knew how this worked...
 - * Apart from divine intervention no way in this world he could take part in the reconstruction of Jerusalem.
 - * So he waited... BUT he THOUGHT about it, DREAMED about it- so much so that he though through EXACTLY what it would take to do the job - & God was working behind the scenes with the King.

Summarize: Authenticating you vision...

1. A God-ordained vision will eventually **feel like a MORAL IMPERATIVE**...

- The burden grows into a moral compulsion- to NOT do it would be disobedience.

2. A God-ordained vision will **line up with what God is up to in this world**...

- His master plan & yours are the SAME...
 - Whether it is loving your wife, investing in your kids, witnessing to your neighbor, launching a ministry, starting a company...
- As a believer there is a larger, more encompassing context for everything you do!

* It was **Israel's strategic role in God's plan** that made **Nehemiah's vision so COMPELLING,**

BUT it *wasn't the CONDITION of the walls & gates* but *the SPIRITUAL condition of the people!*

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