

BIRTH OF A VISION- Part 2

Vision #6

9-24-06

"A **blind** man's world is bounded by the limits of his **touch**; an ignorant Man's world by the limits of his **knowledge**; a **great** man's world by the limits of his **vision**."

E. Paul Hovey

Neh. 1:1-5a read

5 Basic building blocks to a vision:

I. VISION BEGINS AS A CONCERN

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

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.

Three important things happen while we wait:

A. The vision **matures** in us

B. **We MATURE** in preparation for the 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. A god-ordained vision will eventually **feel like a MORAL IMPERATIVE...**

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

* 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**

III. PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES & PLAN AS IF YOU EXPECTED GOD TO ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS

* What about that time between the birth of and the fulfillment of the vision you have?

- Waiting can kill your dreams & vision.

- You don't have the time, the money, the people, to bring you dream vision into reality.

- You slip into the mode that it won't ever happen.

* **So what do you do while waiting?**

* Pray & plan

A. He prayed (1:4c)

1. **Prayer is critical to vision development** (We often **MISS** what we don't expect to see.)

- It keeps us **LOOKING** (shark teeth/ beach)

- Keeps the **burden FRESH**

- Keeps our **eyes & hearts** in an **EXPECTANT** mode

* **Prayer doesn't FORCE God's hand** - but keeps us **on the lookout** for His **INTERVENTION**.

- Prayer sensitizes us to subtle changes in the circumstances.

a. Nehemiah prayed for an OPPORTUNITY (Neh 1:11)

* **Our tendency** is for **MIRACLES** - more appropriate to pray for opportunity...

More than likely **you need an opportunity** rather **than something Supernatural**.

I.e.

1. As Parents- have vision for your kids...

- Instead of simply **praying for them** to **have Character**- **pray for opportunities** build character into their lives.

* **Your vision INVOLVES YOU!** - You have a role, a part

2. Unbelieving friends - don't just pray for them - pray for opportunity to talk to them.

Note:

Dreamers = dream about things being different

Visionaries = envision themselves helping make the change

Dreamers - dream how nice it would be if ...

Visionaries - look for opportunity

b. **He prayed for FAVOR** - (Neh 1:11) "mercy"= same word for compassion

(**pity** = sorry)

(**compassion** = I'll do what I have to make it better) cp to (Neh 2:2 "sore afraid")

Note: Think about this - if God could use the king to get the vision fulfilled - what about the vision God gave you?

*"The **one** concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He **fears** nothing from **prayerless** studies, **prayerless** work, and **prayerless** religion. He **laughs** at our toil, mocks our wisdom, but trembles when we **pray**." - Samuel Chadwick*

B. He planned

* Don't let the **seemingly improbability** of your vision keep you **from developing a strategy!**

I.e. Our plans for a buildings / the relocation of this church.

*** Plan as if someone were going to come along & give you the opportunity to fulfill your vision.

* Compared to Nehemiah's plans, yours probably won't look so extraordinary after all!

*** **Review his plans once in a while to encourage you of yours.**

This was NOT a just a dream- but truly a VISION from God.

* **Remember - Just about every God-ordained vision appears to be IMPOSSIBLE**

* The circumstances seem overwhelming - vision of a Christian marriage, a business, etc.

IV. GOD IS USING YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES TO POSITION & PREPARE YOU TO ACCOMPLISH HIS VISION IN YOUR LIFE.

* God was positioning the players - Nehemiah, "Lord you called me to build, not bartend."

This is so difficult because we **CONFUSE success** with **the fruits of success**.

* **Success**- is remaining faithful to the process that God laid out for you.

- Success is not the raise, promotion, recognition, Christian home, or wonderful children. Those are simple **enjoyable mile markers** along the way.

- **Success is** staying faithful to the process that contributed to those things becoming a reality.

* **Nehemiah** became **successful** the **day he embraced the vision** of God that God had laid on his heart.

Why? Because he was faithful to what God had called him to do that day.

* **When are parents successful?**

- When they emerge from adolescence without a police record?

- When they graduate from college?

- When their grown son lands his first job?

- When you daughter brings home your first grandchild?

NO - Those are **rewards of parenting**.

- **Every day of responsible parenting is a day of success**

As a parent my ultimate VISION is responsible children with whom I can enjoy an adult relationship for life.

* **You are a success everyday that you show up for duty.**

Every day of faithfulness where you are with what you have, is a successful day.

* Success is: faithfulness to the PROCESS.

* To focus on what's around you diminishes your ability to focus on what's before you!

V. WHAT GOD ORIGINATES HE ORCHESTRATES (The HOW)

- * Agonizing principle: **WHAT** always precedes the **HOW!**
You will always know what God has put in your heart *before* you know HOW He will bring it to pass.
- * True of Nehemiah - what came 4 months before how.
- * **Too many visions die in this stage -**
"When **HOW** seems out of sight, it is tempting to put **WHAT** out of mind.
Plan the best you can BUT remember:
 - Divine vision **necessitates** Divine intervention.
- * **HOW is NEVER a problem for God.** (What God originates He orchestrates)
 - Case in point:
 1. **Mary** - when told she was going to conceive (**Luke 1:27-34, 37**)
 2. **Moses** - did he have to figure a way out of Egypt; across the Red Sea; through the desert?
 3. **David** - wasn't his responsibility to move Saul off the throne so he could be king.
 4. **The Apostles** - feeding the 5000 - no their responsibility to make the lunch go so far.
 5. **The Disciples** - weren't responsible for figuring out How to get the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth -
- *** **NO!**
It was God that orchestrated events while THEY did what the vision was in their hearts.
- * How is NEVER a problem for God!
- * When God puts something in your heart to do, He goes behind the scenes to ensure that it happens.
- In the **meantime we must remain faithful to Him focused on the vision.**
- * **You are not responsible for figuring out HOW to pull off God's vision in your life**
- * I light of the DIVINE vision, our daily FAITHFULNESS takes on a new significance.
- * It is no longer faithful for faithfulness' sake - more important than that.
 - If the **visionary doesn't act, something significant will *not get done.***
 - Visionaries live with the knowledge the **how** may come independently from their planning.
BUT it will NEVER come **apart** from **their faithfulness!**
- * Faithfulness is critical to success.

- * **How is God's Specialty:**
 - How to reach your husband/wife/boss/neighbor
 - How to protect you children even though their daddy is gone
 - How to get a prayer group started at work
 - How to get your business venture off the ground
 - How you can pay for school
 - How to get over your hurt
 - How to put your marriage back together
 - How to get your ministry started
 - How to get this church in the location & pay for the project

- * **A Divine vision is NOT dependent upon us making something happen
It is dependent upon God making something happen.**

John 15:5 "I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."