

Steer Your Vision!

Part 1

I want to ask you one of the most meaningful questions that anyone can ever part their lips to raise to another individual. It is a question that is so profound in fact, that it encompasses every ounce of who you have been, who you are, and who you ever hope to become. It is quite simply "*What is the vision you hold for your life?*" I assure you that the answer to this one central question will determine the degree of fulfillment and success that you garner throughout the rest of your existence.

I suppose that I'm taking a lot on my shoulders by asking you this question. One would not have the audacity to pose it unless he or she presumed to possess a certain level of authority and wisdom. For the good of your soul and what it stands to gain from reading this teaching, I'm asking you to trust that self-aggrandizement isn't, nor has it ever been, my motive. It is because I so fiercely believe in the greatness of what God has in store for you, that I am taking the liberty to get, if I may use the vernacular, all up in your grille. I want to so rattle your brain cells that a cataclysmic conversion of revelation zips through your consciousness. My prayer is that it cuts a path so clear and so enduring in your heart that you understand, in a way that you've never understood before, exactly what you need to do to get out of your own way.

Most of us envision ourselves enjoying the fruits of life, whether it is good health, wealth, a great family life, or a higher level of spirituality. It isn't so much that we envision WHO we will be after our desires materialize, but how we will feel. A quality of elation, of soul satisfaction, probably comes to mind every time we see ourselves in this glorified state. As we look at our present reality though, we may think that the only way our vision will come to fruition is if God plops a miracle in our laps. But the truth of the matter is that God has already done that. The ticket now is to figure out how to steer our vision through the wonder of what we've received.

Whether or not we realize it, HOW we hold to this vision plays the greatest role in its manifestation, but before we discover how to hold the vision rightly, let's explore a bit about how we stifle it. Anytime we find ourselves waiting to get out of a predicament that is less than optimal, most of us envision ourselves as stuck and hopeless until God decides to act on our behalf. We very rarely consider that some aspect or part of our being is blinding us, and because of our own shortsightedness we can't see a way out. That's because sometimes our minds either protect us from experiencing anything too painful or upsetting, or it is still operating by the same old information we've fed it for years.

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There's a part of us that is afraid of stepping up to the plate, and wrestling with faith until we've figured out how to take command of it. This fear causes us to lose the elasticity and vigor that comes with stepping out with a *renewed mind attitude*. It triggers the "off" switch, and we become stagnant and immobile, afraid that moving in any direction will not yield the results we seek. And what's worse, this fear stunts our creativity and keeps us from growing.

In Mark, Chapter 8, Jesus miraculously fed yet another multitude of four thousand. For the doubters who thought his power was limited, he proved that what he could do for five thousand with five loaves, he could surely do for four thousand with seven loaves. Prior to this miracle taking place, this crowd of four thousand had been following Jesus for three days. As one might imagine, a great many of these folks ran out of sustenance before the third day. There were perhaps those of them who had spontaneously decided to follow him and brought no food with them at all. Although fasting was commonplace, Jesus knew the fragility of the human countenance and purposed to oblige the followers with food, but did not move to do so until day three. "Why did he wait?" you might ask. Well, some insight about that can be found in John 6, where we read of his first miraculous feeding of five thousand. It's a key of which we must pay very close attention:

John 6:23-27 NLT

23 Several boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the Lord had blessed the bread and the people had eaten. 24 When the crowd saw that Jesus wasn't there, nor his disciples, they got into the boats and went across to Capernaum to look for him.

25 When they arrived and found him, they asked, "Teacher, how did you get here?" 26 Jesus replied, "The truth is, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you saw the miraculous sign. 27 But you shouldn't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that I, the Son of Man, can give you. For God the Father has sent me for that very purpose."

The power and ability of Jesus Christ was and is limitless; there is no limit to what he can do. He could have fed the multitude at any time, but he didn't. He wanted to make sure that folks did not develop a habit pattern of following him just to be fed physically, but that they purposed within themselves to obtain something infinitely more fulfilling.

As we read on in Mark 8, we see that the disciples were traveling with Jesus on a boat around the region of Dalmanutha. This is a village in Galilee supposedly, mentioned only in Mark. It is believed to be near the home of Mary Madelene. The disciples had traveled with the master before and no doubt understood the precariousness and necessities of what it entailed, yet we find here that they had neglected to bring any food with them for this expedition. Because of it they received a swift warning from Jesus in Mark 8:17 NLT.

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"Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod." Jesus warned. The disciples were perplexed at this warning and tried to figure out amongst themselves the meaning of it. They reasoned this was chastisement for neglecting to bring along some vittles, but such reasoning speaks volumes about exactly where their heads and hearts were.

You see Jesus knew what was in their hearts, and truth be known, they knew their own motives as well, but wouldn't own up to them. They wouldn't get out of their own way to confront the exact meaning of his warning with a measure of truth, responsibility, and accountability. If they had done that, they would have had to do something else that they didn't want to do, which is to admit in the innermost part of their beings that Jesus was the real deal. And if they admitted that, then they would also have to wrestle with the idea that they were not merely flesh and blood individuals, but something infinitely more. They would have to expand their vision and operate on a completely different level than what they were accustomed. They would have to come to grips with the great truth that Jesus was preparing them to do what he was in fact doing himself.

Christ was not for their amusement. He wasn't in their presence to entertain them with miracles on a whim. He was there to show them how to demonstrate power, to teach them how to turn the light bulb on in their brains and hearts so that they could become the embodiment of who he was. He was preparing them for eternity, meanwhile they were trying to hold on to a one dimensional existence.

He said to them *"Listen, don't try to be slick with me. You all know the reason why you didn't bring any bread. You allowed yourselves to operate on a lower mentality, one where you're always looking for a hand-out...always looking for someone to give you something rather than employing the gift that God has given you to get it yourself. That stuff doesn't fly with me. The Pharisees and Herod want me to perform miracles because as long as I continue doing the miraculous for their amusement, they don't have to have faith in what I've made available. They don't have to look any further than what is in front of them. They don't have to put on the new man attitude and wrestle with themselves until they become fully persuaded in me. They are consciously choosing to deceive themselves because they don't want to deal with their unbelief and wrong believing, but that's them. You've been with me long enough to know better. Wake up and pay attention to what you're thinking. Don't let your mind play tricks on you like this. Get it together. Trust God's love and trust yourself to get stuff done through what He's given you!"*

You **should** hold a vision for your life, God is pleased with that, because without one--you can have no expectation of growth and fulfillment. However, the purpose of it isn't to make you feel as though you are more than what you are simply because you've accomplished something. It is to teach you how to employ your mind and heart to focus your vision effectively.

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How do you employ your mind and heart to focus your vision effectively? Well consider your physical eyes. We need light to see. That's pretty obvious isn't it, but most of us take light for granted. We assume that because it is as easy as flipping a switch, that we can always have it, but what happens if for some reason none of the switches work? What do you do? In most cases, you would look for a candle. You would look for a candle because of two things, the first of which is this, you understand with crystal clarity that it takes light to make your vision clear. The second is the fact that you understand that whether or not you have light is perfectly within your power. You realize that you need it, and if you don't have it you'll begin to explore as many options as possible to get it.

Through his warning, this is what Jesus Christ was telling the disciples. He would not have warned them for doing something of which they had no choice. They had a choice. They could have raised their thinking and they chose not to. He warned them because their focus was on the wrong thing. They had the master with them, he was all the light that they'd ever need, just as he is all the light that we need. He had the power to erase any feelings of hunger they may have felt or he could have produced enough food for them to be fed a lifetime. It wasn't that Christ didn't want to provide for his beloved disciples; it was his joy to do so, but not at the expense of them losing control of the vision.

Our physical eyes are just like a camera, and our spiritual eyes behave in much the same way. You may look at your life and aim at what you feel is the most beautiful vision of loveliness you've ever seen. Everything looks great through your lenses, so you snap the picture. I'm sure you know from experience that this image will come to you with all the vibrancy of which you've envisioned it ONLY IF it has been developed with enough light.

The vision is yours! It's your dream, your potential, your desires, but the birth or fruition of those things is not the miracle. The miracle is his light and WHAT you can do through it. The miracle is his love and WHO you are through it. You are required to take authority, along with all the accountability and responsibility that comes with it. A "get in where I fit in" mentality is not your destiny. It isn't God's will for us to be flighty and unstable. It isn't His plan for us to be tossed about with every wind of doctrine. It is your destiny to STEER YOUR VISION! Steer it in the direction of God's love. Colossians 2:6 NKJV says " *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,*" You have to envision blessings hitting you from every direction as you move and grow in him. That is the only way that your vision of greatness will be pleasing to Heavenly Father and fulfilling to you.

You've been given all that is required for your destiny. Work with it through the love of Christ by doing those things that bless and minister. Don't ask for the miracle. BE the miracle.

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