



PART 2: NEHEMIAH'S VISION

Sermon Notes

Text: Nehemiah 2:11-20

Intro:

Nehemiah travels to Jerusalem and shares his vision with the people

Without a vision we lose focus and end up where we don't want to be.

Definition of Vision: A vision is a compelling picture of a future destination or reality

Proverbs 29:18

When you don't have a vision, you don't have a future. If you don't have a future, you'll return to your past.

1. Vision requires a calling and a cause beyond ourselves

v. 12

Nehemiah's vision was not FROM himself or FOR himself. It was from God, for Jerusalem.

2. Vision requires an honest look

v. 13

Nehemiah took an honest look at the state of the city

Sometimes it takes fresh eyes to see the rubble. We need community to help us see our mess, and we need to listen to the Holy Spirit.

"Vision is born in the soul of a man or a woman who is consumed with the tension between what is a what could be" ~Andy Stanley

When God looks at our lives, he doesn't see a pile of bricks; he sees what those bricks could become.

3. Vision is about preserving something old while building something new

v. 17-18

Israel was in disgrace not because they had broken down walls, but because of what the walls represented: a broken identity.

God wanted to restore what Israel has lost, while at the same time doing a brand new thing among them.

Bethel's Vision: *We envision a Spirit filled, growing community of believers who love their city and are empowered to spread the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the world.*

Vision becomes a reality brick by brick - one small action upon another.

Conclusion:

Brick #2: God has a vision for your life

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Recap the Sunday sermon. What intrigued you? Perplexed you? What did you learn? What questions remain?
2. What does it mean to have “vision”? Have you ever been part of an organization that talked about vision? What are the benefits of a clear vision in a church, and in your personal life? Consider the definition of vision in the notes. How would you define vision?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Proverbs 29:18. If possible read it in several translations. What does it mean? What happens when you don't have vision/revelation?
2. Read Luke 4:14-21. This could be considered one of Jesus' vision statements. What images does Jesus illicit in this statement? Can you think of other visions statements Jesus gave? Remember, a vision is a compelling picture of a future reality.
3. Visions requires that we take an honest look at the current situation (in our church, in our business, in our lives). How do we do that? Is it helpful for an outsider to come in to point things out?
4. The third point from Sunday's message was that vision is about preserving something old while building something new. What do you think that means? How does this relate to church vision? What are we preserving? What must be made new? How do we differentiate between that which must be preserved and that which must be changed?

Application:

1. Come up with a personal vision statement for something in your life. For example, make a vision statement about what you want your marriage to look like, or your career. Check Bethel's vision statement for an example. Once your statement is done, start coming up with an action plan that will help you make your vision a reality. What practical steps can you take right now?

Prayer:

1. Pray that God would give you a vision for your life.
2. Pray that Bethel's vision would become a reality.
3. Other Requests
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