

Practical Skills For Spiritual Leaders

Vision



The Importance of Vision

- The Biblical leaders we studied had a strong vision.
 - God called Moses from a burning bush (Ex. 3:9-10).
 - Joseph was destined for great things (Ge. 37:5-11).
 - Elijah placed his mantle on Elisha (Ki. 19:19).
 - God gave Pharaoh an unmistakable sign (Ge. 41).

The Importance of Vision (cont.)

- Paul was smitten by a blinding light (Ac. 9:5-6).
- David was anointed by Samuel (I Sa. 16:13).
- Solomon was chosen to be king of Israel (I Ki. 1).
- The hand of the Lord was upon Elijah (I Ki. 18:46).
- Nehemiah's prayer (Ne. 1:4-11) demonstrated vision.
- John the Baptist was called before his birth (Lu. 1).

Recognize your Vision

- Do not discount your vision.
 - It is important.
 - You too can be a leader of vision.
- We revere people of vision, but do not identify with their greatness.
 - “It’s a great story, but I could never do that.”
 - This is the attitude of the servant with only one talent.

Recognize your Vision (cont.)

- Every one that God fills with his Spirit, he fills with a vision of divine purpose and expectancy.
- Burden also is evidence of God's vision.
 - When God puts a burden in your heart, it is a vision of His will.
 - Recognize the vision in you.
- Respond to it!

The Foundation for Success

- The best foundation for true success is God's calling, or vision, for your life.
 - The world judges success by material or carnal standards.
 - True success is fulfilling God's will, no matter the opinion of the world.
- There are many reasons for such success.
 - Three of those reasons are:
 - right purpose
 - focus
 - perseverance

Right Purpose

- Each Biblical leaders we studied pursued a holy purpose.
- Divine vision gives us the right purpose.
 - Godly leaders do not pursue personal ambition; they follow God's will.
 - When we conscientiously pursue God's vision, our motives are pure, our goal is righteous.
 - We are not concerned with the acclaim or acceptance of the world, our friends, or our families.
- Pursuing His purpose gives us the satisfaction we need.

Focus

- We all need goals to give us purpose.
- A life without focus is a frustrated life .
 - We don't know our choices; we can't decide what we want to do.
 - Many brilliant people have wasted opportunity through uncertainty, while others of lesser abilities have succeeded by pursuing one thing with intensity.

Focus (cont.)

- Divine vision provides focus.
 - When you know what God has called you to do, it consumes you.
 - All of your energy is focused on that calling.
- If you want to succeed, focus intently on your vision.
 - Don't let distraction rob you.
 - Keep your eyes on the vision He has given you.

Perseverance

- True success requires that we persevere.
- Good plans don't eliminate struggle.
 - Divine vision doesn't eliminate struggle either.
 - The rain falls on the just and the unjust.
(Mt. 5:45)

Perseverance (cont.)

- When you have vision, you have courage to endure.
 - Trials do not discourage you.
 - You steadfastly pursue that vision.
 - While divine vision doesn't eliminate struggle, it does give you determination.
- You will succeed if you persevere. (Mt. 10:22)

Obedience to Vision

- We know the stories of these great Biblical leaders because they obeyed their visions.
 - Though reluctant at first, Moses did confront Pharaoh.
 - Joseph endured slavery and false imprisonment.
 - Pharaoh listened to the wisdom of Joseph.
 - David accepted the responsibility to lead Israel.
 - Solomon obeyed his call to build the temple.

Obedience to Vision (cont.)

- Elijah followed the voice of the Lord.
- Elisha left his family to follow Elijah.
- Despite opposition, Nehemiah responded to the passion in his heart.
- John the Baptist fulfilled his foreordained calling.
- Paul's life was completely transformed on the road to Damascus.
- Obedience is essential in fulfilling God's will.

Be Obedient to Your Vision

- Just as these great Biblical leaders obeyed their vision, so too must you.
- The servant with one talent knew what he should do.
 - He failed to obey because he was afraid.
 - Seldom do any of us miss God's will because of unconcern.
 - Even less do we miss His will because of open rebellion.
 - The most common reason we do not obey God's vision is fear.

Be Obedient to Your Vision (cont.)

- When God puts something in your heart, it is the right thing to do.
 - He put it in your heart because He wants you to do it.
 - Moses was afraid.
 - He questioned himself too.
 - But after questioning, he obeyed the voice of God.

Be Obedient to Your Vision (cont.)

- Success or failure is not our responsibility.
 - In the world, you determine your own success, but not in the Church.
 - In the Church, the responsibility is simply to obey.
- Obey the vision God has given you.
- In the end, success is determined by obedience.

Accomplishment is the Result of Obedience

- By obeying their visions, these Biblical leaders accomplished great things.
 - Moses delivered Israel, and much more.
 - Joseph did see his dream realized.
 - Pharaoh transformed Egypt into a powerful nation.
 - David became the greatest king of Israel.
 - Solomon built a magnificent temple.

Accomplishment is the Result of Obedience (cont.)

- Nehemiah restored more than walls.
- Elijah crushed Baalism on Mt. Carmel.
- Elisha performed more miracles than Elijah.
- John the Baptist introduced Jesus; he baptized the Savior.
- Paul established churches throughout the world.
- Each leader succeeded because they obeyed God's vision.

Accomplish Your Vision

- Great accomplishment requires vision and courage.
 - You must believe in your vision.
 - You must believe in He who gave you that vision.
 - You must be willing to take risks to succeed.
- Remember what God has already done for you.
 - He filled you with His Spirit.
 - Look back on what He has already accomplished through you.

Accomplish Your Vision (cont.)

- Israel failed in the Wilderness because they failed to remember.
 - After every miracle, they murmured at the next struggle.
 - They saw today's struggle through carnal eyes.
 - Somehow, their miraculous past accomplishments did not give them faith for today's struggle.

Accomplish Your Vision (cont.)

- But it can be different for you.
 - Remember what He has already done.
 - Have faith in the vision He has given you today.
 - You will accomplish your vision if you have the courage to pursue it.

The Reason for Greatness

- Great men of vision aren't great because of their visions.
 - We all have great visions.
 - They are great because they obeyed God's calling in their lives.
 - They accomplished great things through obedience to their visions.