

Lecture 2 : Vision and the Spiritual Leader's Influence

People of vision change the world

► Introduction

There is a difference between the worldly leader and the spiritual leader.

The worldly leader uses worldly principles and methods to display his leadership, but spiritual leaders use God's Word as their foundation. It is not the power to lead nor the power to control or direct, but the power to influence.

More important than how much money or land you have, or how many organizations or armies you have, is how many people you can affect at a deep level. Vision and leadership changes the world as a seed of wheat dies to bear much fruit.

1. Vision creates a new ideal.

Let us consider individuals from church history – Luther and Calvin who brought on the Reformation, or George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, John Wesley, Moody, and others who brought about spiritual renewals. These were all people who were able to realize their spiritual ideals. These were people who changed the generation they lived in.

Jesus had a vision about God's kingdom. In order to make that vision a reality, he came into the world, lived among sinners, and bore the cross.

What about Apostle Paul? Although he was called to be an apostle of the gospel, he had a special vision for the Gentiles. This was a vision that Paul couldn't have even imagined before he met Jesus.

Whoever meets Jesus receives a new vision and ideal. As a person receives a new dream and ideal for the church, they also receive a new vision for their country and the world. This person's body lives in reality, but the person's heart lives within this new ideal.

2. Vision creates a spiritual person.

Whoever meets Jesus is changed into a person with a new ideal.

Consider the disciples of Jesus. They were simple people and fishermen living in Galilee. However, after meeting Jesus of Nazareth, they were transformed into exemplary disciples who went on to assume the main leadership roles for the early church and even to demonstrate their great faith through martyrdom. They may not have been as famous or acclaimed as their worldly counterparts. At the same time, there are few people who have affected the course of humanity as much as these.

Let us consider the Apostle Paul. This man who had tried to kill and persecute anyone who believed in Jesus was totally transformed after actually meeting Jesus

and later came to be known as the Apostle to the Gentiles. This was something that he could not have anticipated. These were all men who had a certain spiritual ideal. The spiritual person possesses a spiritual power to lead. Through these people are we able to get spiritual change and power to influence.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

3. Vision allows us to see a new world.

A person who has vision is able to see a new world. All things become like new. He sees his new self, his family as new; society as new, and his countrymen as new.

In Isaiah 35 (vs. 2), there is a picture of a new world: “The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.* (vs. 1–2).

“Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.* (vs. 5–6).

... and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (vs. 10).

The vision from God gives the person a heart of compassion for those who don't believe in Jesus and also a heart that loves people. The person who has received a vision from God sees revival and unification for his people and also sees the souls of the people in unreached lands.

The person of vision is like the person who has conquered high mountains, or a person who has swum across perilous and rough seas, or like a person who has pioneered uncharted worlds. This person is this generation's light, hope and ideal. This is the kind of person who we call a leader. The true leader transforms the world, brings about reform in the church, and opens the door leading to the next generation.

Vision Creates the Leader

The hope of our generation today is “the leader of one person who holds the vision of God*. Let's consider the ruin of Sodom and Gomorrah. In the eyes of God there were not even 10 righteous people. Let's consider the history of our people. Aside

from the president we have had many leaders, but it's difficult to find any who have been able to bring any true change.

Among all the well-known stars of today, we can find no leaders worthy of respect. If there were just one leader who possessed courage, moral dignity, and ability the world would become a beautiful place. If there were just one pastor in the church of today overflowing with love the church would be changed and miracles would happen. In the same way that the problems of the world are the burden of leaders, so are the problems of the church the burden of leaders as well.

Vision reaches beyond the present generation, it reaches beyond culture, and creates the leader.

More than being born, a vision is made. To the leader, vision is more important than environment.