



Course Name: Vision - Faith, Conviction, Sacrifice

By Dr. Bob Turner

Course description:

This course continues to focus on helping men understand the necessity of vision for the leader individually and for the church collectively.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Discussed the biblical context surrounding the necessity of vision and how vision supports the direction of the church.
- B. Listed at least three words directly related to vision and how these words impact the development of our vision for the church.

Outline of the class:

- A. Divide the class into groups of three or four at each table and give the groups 10 minutes to list out the top three words they would associate with vision.
- B. After they have the list, ask each group to share their top three words and why those words are associated with vision.
- C. Then, discuss three biblical terms connected to vision.
 - 1. Faith: Seeing Him who is unseen
 - a. Use Hebrews 11 and spend the first portion of time looking at the use of the terms seen and unseen.
 - b. Then focus on Hebrews 11:23-27 and consider how the text highlights the same words.
 - i. The parents of Moses “saw” that he was a beautiful child. There was something different about this one who would deliver God’s people.
 - ii. Notice how Moses was “looking to the reward.”
 - iii. Then, in v. 27 it points out that Moses endured, “as seeing Him who is unseen.”
 - c. The ideas surrounding faith urge us to look beyond our own abilities and see the One who is unseen, realizing that with Him, there is nothing that is impossible.

- i. Consider the power of God orchestrated in the providential working through one nation of people to bring Jesus into the world to save us from sin. Is there anything He would not do through us to achieve His purpose in saving the world with the gospel?
 - ii. Look at Ephesians 3:20-21 – if glory is to be given to God in the church, then we need to understand the power of God at work within us.
 - iii. We need the kind of faith that thinks big! It has been said that, “When you realize you can’t do it, maybe then your plan is almost big enough” (think about it).
 - iv. What would we attempt to do, if we knew we could not fail?
- 2. Conviction:
 - a. Conviction is closely associated with faith, because it follows faith in action.
 - b. Prior to class, read the account of Joshua and Caleb in Numbers 13 and Joshua 14:9-12 and discuss the following areas.
 - i. When we look at the end of Numbers 13 we see the problem connected to the vision of ten spies who brought back a bad report. They were as grasshoppers in the sight of the people in the land and in their own eyes.
 - ii. Caleb had conviction. Even at the age of 85, he had the same drive to conquer the giants in the land as he did when Moses sent the spies into the land. Read Joshua 14:12.
 - iii. Caleb’s conviction was based on his faith, his ability to see the One who would give him the victory.
 - c. How do we develop the kind of conviction needed to support the vision?
 - i. Take time to identify what we believe and who we believe in.
 - ii. Consider the outcome if we do not have the conviction needed and if we do.
 - iii. Discuss the difference between confidence and arrogance.
 - iv. Commit with your time, energy, and talent. Hold nothing back. Remember, God is not looking for a part-time, half-time, when we have time, or when it is a convenient time type of conviction.
- 3. Sacrifice: What are we willing to give up in order to achieve the vision?
 - a. John Maxwell, and many others, point out that there is no leadership without sacrifice. In fact, the higher one goes in leadership, the greater the sacrifice.

- b. Take a moment to read John 13:31-38 and consider the discussion between Peter and Jesus.
 - i. Peter wants to know where Jesus is going that he cannot go with Him.
 - ii. He further makes the statement, “I am willing to lay down my life for you,” to which Jesus asks, “Will you lay down your life for Me?” He then points out that Peter will deny Him three times before the rooster crows.
- c. The text demands we consider the question asked by Jesus: “Will you lay down your life for me.”
 - i. We should all be willing to answer, “Yes.” We would be willing to die for Jesus.
 - ii. The real question is, “Will we live for Him.” If we are unwilling to live for Him, would we really be willing to die for Him?
 - iii. Let us resolve to make the sacrifices needed to achieve the vision set before us.

Conclusion:

- A. There are many words that could be used when we consider the subject of vision, but these three words are worth our attention: Faith, Conviction, Sacrifice
- B. Conviction is built upon our faith, and when both are in place, we are willing to make whatever sacrifice is needed to achieve the task at hand. May we always strive to develop a stronger faith, grow a deeper conviction, and willingly make whatever sacrifice is necessary for the cause of our Lord and the vision of His church.
- C. Next week, we will examine several factors associated with vision as they relate to biblical context.

Recommended Readings:

Kotter, John. *Leading Change*

Sinek, Simon. *Start with Why*

McNeal, Reggie. *The Present Future*

Maxwell, John. *Developing the Leader Within You*