

BEYOND 20/20 VISION

Part 2 – What Do We See?

OPENING THOUGHT (Ephesians 1:18-19): There's MORE to SEE than you're currently SEEING.

- * The DANGER = We SEE only what WE can do & FORGET what GOD can do.
- * When God OPENS your EYES, you get to see a VERY DIFFERENT PICTURE (2 Kings 6:16-17).

→ *Do you agree that, in your life, there's 'more to see that you're currently seeing?' What might you be missing? What might you see were God to 'open your eyes,' as he did for Elisha's servant? How come Elisha could already see?*

WHAT DO WE SEE AS A CHURCH?

All depends upon which LENS we're LOOKING through.

→ *Is our view of church too limited? What do you currently see? What might it look like through the lens of the promises of God? What could it look like if human constraints were removed and God's power fully unleashed? To what extent is our limited view or lack of expectation holding us back?*

1. HINDSIGHT

- * When you look through the lens of past, are you looking for things to CRITICISE or praising God for LESSONS LEARNT?
- * Don't spend your valuable energy BEMOANING the PROBLEM, and thus making it BIGGER; choose to be part of the SOLUTION instead.
- * INSPIRATION seems to come as often in REFLECTION as it does in PREPARATION.
- * Can be a powerful lens, but it must be used CONSTRUCTIVELY, rather than DESTRUCTIVELY.

→ *There are two very different perspectives. One is using a stick to beat anyone or anything that in your eyes failed. The other is trying to see what God might have been up to in the middle of all that's happened. What sort of things should we be looking for? How does the change in those perspectives feed a different attitude and thus different responses? Where does prayer fit into all that?*

→ *Do you tend to use hindsight constructively or destructively? (That might apply personally or when you're looking at church life).*

2. TUNNEL VISION

- * Tunnels are a) LONELY b) DANGEROUS c) LIMITING
- * Suspect COVID drove a few into a TUNNEL: Their view turned INWARD and they became SELF-PROTECTIVE & SELF-RELIANT.

- * The DANGER in all of that is LOSING SIGHT of the BIGGER PICTURE ... in which case, SMALLER, less SIGNIFICANT issues can take on UNREALISTIC & DISPROPORTIONATE importance.
- * If we allow ENTITLEMENT & CONSUMERISM to drive our thinking, rather than SERVICE. SACRIFICE & SURRENDER it can start becoming about OUR AGENDA rather than GOD'S and you stop SEEING what God WANTS you to SEE.

→ *What might church look like through tunnel vision? Have you ever been there?*

→ *Did Covid drive you into a tunnel? If you came out, how? If you haven't yet, how can we help?*

→ *What are the dangers of entitlement and consumerism sneaking into our perspective on church? Is that almost inevitable in the social media, hyper-opinionated world we find ourselves living in? How can we resist that trend?*

3. STATUS QUO

- * Seeing a SNAPSHOT and ASSUMING it's always BEEN like that and always WILL.
- * The REALITY = We've COME a LONG WAY, and still have a LONG WAY to go!
- * Fine to do what you've ALWAYS DONE, as long as you don't mind getting what you've ALWAYS HAD.
- * Leading OUT OF comfort & FOR comfort will not get you where you LONG to go.

→ *Are you expecting your church to change, grow, move forwards? If not, why not? What are the dangers of viewing church through the lens of status quo? How does one break out of status quo?*

4. NATURAL v SUPERNATURAL VISION

- * What if I'm only seeing church through NATURAL vision and I'm missing THE SUPERNATURAL?
- * What is that PREFERRED FUTURE?
- * As a church, what should we be PURSUING, PRESSING into & PRIORITISING?
- * What ENVIRONMENT should we be CULTIVATING?
- * What SEED should we be PLANTING?

→ *Can you give examples of how your church life / relationships / experiences might look different if seen through a supernatural lens?*

→ *What do you see when you close your eyes and dream. In this message, Jamie summarised what he sees. What about you? What one step could you take today to help your church move a little closer to that dream?*