

BEYOND 20/20 VISION 1 - What Do You See?

→ *What does the word 'vision' mean to you? Do you have a vision personally? Do you know what the Barn's vision is? How has Covid affected all of that?*

KEY THOUGHT: What you SEE in front of you is going to STRONGLY INFLUENCE your DIRECTION of TRAVEL.

→ *How does this work? What do we mean when we talk about what we 'see'? How does what you 'see' affect your relationships / decisions / future plans?*

CHALLENGE: Sometimes what we see gets DISTORTED. We can be DISTRACTED. We get BLINDED & MISS crucial things we NEED to see or we start looking in the WRONG direction.

→ *What does the Enemy want you to see? What does he NOT want you to see? How does he set about distorting your view?*

DIFFERENT TYPES OF VISION

1. HINDSIGHT

- * What you see when you LOOK BACK at something that has ALREADY happened with the advantage of being able to see NOW how it ACTUALLY played out.
- * There's a wisdom that REFLECTS, ANALYSES, PROCESSES, to INFORM our foresight.
- * Hindsight can be a very useful LENS, but must be used as a TOOL to TEACH us, not a STICK to BEAT us.
- * A lot of the problems people have with REGRET, GUILT & SHAME are because they use hindsight as a STICK.
- * The beauty of the Gospel is that the application of hindsight becomes GRACE, not CONDEMNATION, REDEMPTION, not REGRET.

→ *How do you use hindsight? When you look back at the past, particularly those bits that didn't go quite according to plan, do you tend to beat yourself up with the stick of hindsight or use it to teach you wisdom and inform future decisions?*

→ *What role does hindsight play in those feelings of shame and regret? How would it be different if you applied grace to hindsight and looked for what could be redeemed, rather than what should be regretted?*

→ *How do you think hindsight should and should not be used as any governmental reviews look back at the whole Covid experience?*

2. TUNNEL VISION

- * All you can see is the NOSE at the end of your FACE.
- * It's very easy, in the midst of your CIRCUMSTANCES to get stuck in a TUNNEL, where literally all you can see is what's STRAIGHT AHEAD of you.
- * The Enemy is trying to ENCLOSE WALLS all around you (2 Cor 4:4) ... He as a full gambit of TRICKS designed to CONVINCED you you're stuck in a TUNNEL.
- * The good news is that, in Christ, we have glorious FREEDOM.

→ *Have you ever / do you frequently find yourself suffering from tunnel vision? What are the relative benefits of 'peripheral vision?' What does it feel like in that tunnel? Why does it feel impossible to escape? What is the way out?*

3. STATUS QUO

- * This is how it is: This is what it's like TODAY. what it was like YESTERDAY & what we expect it to be like TOMORROW.
- * SQ offers COMFORT & FAMILIARITY but there can also be a RESIGNATION & DENIAL of the TRANSFORMING POWER of God.
- * Vision is a picture of a PREFERRED FUTURE: The sense something COULD, indeed SHOULD be BETTER.
- * Till we're DISSATISFIED with the SQ, we're unlikely to make the SACRIFICES required to force the CHANGE we need to get us where we WANT to go.

→ *What are your general feelings towards the idea of change? Are you reluctant? Suspicious? Fearful? Do you tend to look for opportunities for change and improvement, or are you one for comfort and familiarity?*

→ *What are the dangers of only seeing the status quo? How does it hinder the work of God in your life?*

→ *"Till we're dissatisfied with the status quo, we're unlikely to make sacrifices required to force the change we need to get us where we want to go" DISCUSS!*

4. NATURAL v SUPERNATURAL VISION

- * NV is the ability to see around you what your SENSES show you.
- * NV enables you to come to CONCLUSIONS, form JUDGMENTS & make DECISIONS.
- * Drawback: It is, by defⁿ, NATURAL, not SUPERNATURAL ... PHYSICAL, not SPIRITUAL ... Draws on human INFERENCE rather than divine INSPIRATION
- * So, there are certain things MISSING that BELONG to us as children of God (Eph 1:18-19).
- * SV is the ability to see what GOD sees, through a BIBLICAL lens, to recognise WHAT He's doing, WHERE He's moving, to HEAR what He's saying & DISCERN what's happening in the spirit.

→ *If we only use natural vision, what are we missing out on? What spiritual lenses does God want us to see through? Do you?*

→ *Can you think of one situation you're currently facing that could look very different through God's eyes than it does right now through yours?*

→ *If you could ask God for His perspective on one aspect of your life, what would it be?*

→ *What difference would it make to your life if you could more consistently see through supernatural vision?*

RESPONSE

Are any of those visions affecting your life or hindering your walk with the Lord right now? If so, how can your group pray for you?