

Sunday Service Sermons

08 August 2021

Renew My Vision

I messed up, I got confused and had this week's title on my notes when it should have been Renew My Witness last week and Renew My Vision this week.

The bulk of last week's sermon was on our witness, it was just the introduction where I spoke of my upcoming eye surgery to improve my vision.

In the next few weeks I will have cataract surgery to help me see more clearly.

The Holy Spirit helps us see more clearly in our Spiritual Vision.

We are in the process of renewing our minds that we might live a life of service and witness that will help to bring the Kingdom of God to earth as it is in heaven.

Is that a possibility in your thinking?

It is in God's thinking.

And it can only happen when we allow it to happen.

By the resetting of our minds on Kingdom goals and allowing God to use us to bring His Kingdom on Earth.

One key verse for today's thinking is found in *Matthew 9:36*: "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion."

Why did Jesus have compassion on the people?

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

In another instance Jesus was tired and the crowds pressed in, he rebuked them for coming for the show and food, then he was moved with compassion and healed the sick and taught them.

Here he sees them as lost.

And without direction.

He then turns to his disciples and says, The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send, out workers into his harvest fields.

Last week we were challenged to see our lives as a witness for the Good News.

This week we need the eyes to see the need before us.

Jesus has very good vision.

With the eyes in his head and his spiritual eyes.

He had both earthly vision and Spiritual vision.

We need both to see the mission and ministry before us.

The Greek word for "see" has something special about it.

It means not just seeing something as an object, but seeing with understanding. (Avatar-I see you)

It means to see through something, to see something in its true condition.

So when Jesus saw people, he saw them as they really were.

If the church is to be renewed, we must see the people around us with the eyes of Jesus.

A prayer for renewal is, "Lord, renew by vision!"

Renewing our vision means to do the following:

First we must open our eyes to see people in their need.

If anyone knew the true condition of people it was Jesus.

He could see into the heart and discern whether a person had faith.

John 2:24 says, "He knew all men."

Matthew 9:36 pictures how Jesus saw the multitudes.

They were tired and weary with life.

They needed spiritual rest.

They were scattered "abroad".

This expression is from a verb meaning "to throw, cast, or hurl".

People are thrown around by life's circumstances, and they are without the leadership and protection of a shepherd.

Multitudes have no God, no faith, no love, no home.

They are without roots, and they have no hope.

Jesus also saw people like a ripe harvest.

There is always someone ready for the gospel of hope in Christ.

When we open our eyes to others' needs, we see people spiritually lost and critically hurting with all types of needs.

To adequately fulfill God's purpose, we also must see life in its true condition.

Second: Open our hearts to care.

Seeing means much more than just being aware of spiritual needs; it means responding to those needs.

It means loving and receiving people.

Compassion is a deeply moving attitude.

Jesus was moved with compassion as he saw the people.

Compassion represents love for someone so deep that we involve ourselves until the hurt is healed.

The good Samaritan is a poignant illustration of compassion.

He was moved to assist the person in their need even paying for his care.

A young Mexican boy came to a Bible school program and did not accept the call to come to Christ.

Later he said that he did not respond because he thought that he was not wanted.

There are people who would worship with us on Sundays if they knew they were wanted much less needed!

Third: Open our souls to prayer.

There is no true vision without prayer.

Jesus said: "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Laborers for the harvest always come in answer to prayer.

The Holy Spirit, in the atmosphere of prayer, calls people to special ministries as in *Acts 13:2-3*.

We need to pray for laborers who minister to needs as well as for the people with those needs.

Fourth: Open our lives to go.

A true vision means that we make ourselves available to become involved in the needs of people.

How do we do this?

We acknowledge our place in the body of Christ to be his servant; to minister to others.

We open our lives to touch people with our love, words, and genuine help.

Also, we open our lives to tell people the good news of salvation.

We teach them the Word of God.

We minister to their needs.

One man, after sharing Christ with others, said to his pastor, "I didn't know there were needs like this. It opened my eyes to why we need to go."

How can you respond specifically?

Respond to the opportunities you have personally, wherever they are.

Opportunities to help others may arise in your family, in your neighborhood, at your workplace or school, in the church, or among strangers.

Respond to opportunities your church offers you.

Don't wait for a giant step.

Just take the first step however insignificant and unseen it may be.

A church received a telephone call from a desperate person.

The caller said, "My father has cancer and is dying. Would you send someone to see him?"

Someone from the church went and discovered that the dying patient was not a Christian.

As a result of the visit, he was saved.

And before the visit was over, five other members of the family received Christ into their lives.

How wonderful is that?

Without waiting for someone else to respond, let us pray, Lord, renew my vision that I might see the need you have before me.