

"Have You Lost Vision?"

~ INTRO ~

TODAY...

- I want to share from the OT book of Jeremiah.
 - So we can gain a Holy perspective...
 - About the life of faith.

WHAT DO I DO...

- When I'm NOT motivated for spiritual things?
 - When I've become discouraged about my life?
 - When laziness has paralyzed faith movements?
 - When it seems like my friends & family...
 - Reject the truth of God?

ALL OF THESE CAN BE VERY REAL...

- Issues of an unhealthy faith.

IDEA #1 – PROPER PERSPECTIVE

JEREMIAH...

- Was a young man called by God at 20-yr old...
 - And he ministered for 40-yr... until he was 60.
 - (Jer. 1:2 & 4 – 9) NKJV
 - (Jer. 1:17-19) NKJV

JEREMIAH...

- Was a devoted patriot.
 - BUT... he consistently received annoying, offensive...
 - And wrongful treatment from the people of God.
- At certain moments Jeremiah expressed frustration to God...
 - (Jer. 20:7-12) NKJV
 - Called
 - Mocked
 - Burning heart
- God had put a message in his mouth (Jer. 1:9b)
 - AND Jeremiah's heart burned when he tried to hold it in.

JEREMIAH WARNED THE PEOPLE...

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- About what God was doing.
 - BUT... the people chose to entertain...
 - A message that made them feel better...
 - Instead of what God actually said.

(2 Chronicles 36:14-16) NKJV

- Tell us why the hardship was coming...
 - The people of faith would not be faithful.
 - They toyed with God as an ***"option."***

LISTEN...

- When our perspective collides with God's word...
 - We're getting spiritual life wrong.

~ TESTIMONY ~

BACK IN APRIL 2011

- Before planting WC God gave me direction & a warning...
 - **(Ps. 32:8-9) NKJV**
- ***I will instruct you*** = We get the idea of counsel
- ***I will teach you*** = Revealing how something is done
- ***I will guide you*** = Lead the way

GOD WANTS US...

- To rely on His wisdom / His faithfulness / & His leading.

From day one of planting this church it's been difficult!

- Westminster is a City filled with 115,000 people +/-...
 - That lightly tolerate Biblical truth...
 - Until it requires steps of faith.

SO... GOD HAD TO SHOW ME...

- That He's with...
 - So I don't give up!

HERE'S THE POINT...

- Even in moments when the plan of God seems to be destroyed...

"Have You Lost Vision?"

- When the way forward is blocked or impossible...
 - When motivation AND vision seem to be lost...
 - God wants YOU to stay faithful.

IDEA #2 – OVERCOMING PROBLEMS

OK... let's get some practical ways to overcome problems.

THE AVERAGE PERSON...

- Gives up at the first sign of resistance.
 - Yet... the Bible tells us... how God wants His people...
 - To handle setbacks and uncomfortable situations.
 - (Peter / James / Jude / Paul)

IN THE O.T. (Neh. 4:10-11) NLT

- The people were experiencing problems in the plan of God:
 - *Tired* (v.10)
 - *Attacked* (v.11)
 - *Tempted to quit* (v.10-b)

KNOWING GOD'S DIRECTION...

- Helps me to see the big picture for my life.

READ (Jer. 29:4-13) NKJV

- 1) **No hope?** (vv.4-7)
 - Make plans
 - Go forward in your life
 - Focus on getting your family healthy
 - Take initiative
- 2) **False hope?** (vv.8-9)
 - Take responsibility for your faith
 - Stop listening to those who speak contrary to my word
- 3) **Living hope?** (vv.10-14)
 - I'm coming for you
 - I have a reward for you
 - (Rev. 22:12-13) NET
 - Seek Me with all of your heart

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IDEA #3 – STICK TO THE PLAN

Ezra – Rebuilt Jerusalem (100-years)

Nehemiah – Rebuild the wall to protect the city (52-days)

Jesus – (John 4:34) NLT

“My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing His work.”

TAKE AWAYS:

- a) Nourishment = That which is necessary for growth, health, & good condition.
 - (Proverbs 3:7-8) NKJV
- b) Finishing the work God has given.
 - Your part (grow as a follower)
 - Your participation (support the work of ministry)
 - (1 Cor 9:14) NLT

~ IN CLOSING ~

Communion to renew our hearts before the Lord.