

VISIONARIES

WILLIS 8/9/09

Jer29:11-14

In light of God's word to us today I want to rehearse a portion of the prophetic word spoken over us by Apostle John Kelly when he was with us a few weeks back. He closed his message saying:

- **“For this house is destined as a sign and a wonder. You shall be a sign and a wonder to both the Church and to the culture. You shall be lifted up by My Spirit. No longer will you be that walled city, but I am opening up the gated that others may come in and receive the baptism of My Spirit with wisdom. This shall be a voice to this city and to the nation. They will come from other nations; they will come from other cities and states to hear and to receive what I have given you. For the mold has been broken and the model has been established, now is the time...”**
- This word speaks of the things that already are and of the things that will be. **If we are to become those things that will be, we will first have to see the things that will be.** Seeing is the first step to being. Whenever you stop seeing you cease to become.
- So I have entitled what I want to share with us today “Visionaries.”

To be “touched by the eternal” is to be touched by the God breathed ability to see beyond. Visionaries are those who are divinely enabled to see the ordered future. At any given time each one of us stands before two futures:

1. **Manufactured Future: The future we create for ourselves.**
2. **Manifested Future: The future we receive as an inheritance from the Lord.**

Father promises in Jer 29:11 that He has plans to *give* us a future and a hope. **Visionaries are those who give their lives and their pursuits to apprehend that “given” future.** Given doesn't mean we apprehend it passively, given simply means its source is from above.

- **Visionaries are those who know the source of their future is from above but the pursuit of their future is from within.**
- When Paul prays for “eyes that are enlightened” in Ep1:17 he wasn't praying for eyes that would manufacture what they wanted to see. He was praying for eyes to see what already was in the eternal but was waiting for someone to see it here on earth.
- The Church today is full of those who are Theist's in their theology but Deist's in the practice. That is, philosophically they believe in a sovereign active God but practically they make decisions like God wound this life up then left all of its decisions to man.
- It's like the guy who prays for the groceries so he doesn't have to bless each meal. We have those who have vision in general but don't seek the Kingdom for vision in specific.

3 Stages of Visionary Living:

1. **No Vision: These are those who live trusting in luck, chance...random selection.**
2. **Self Initiated Vision: These are those who believe in the power of vision but their vision is self generated, self perpetuated and self fulfilled.**
3. **God Ordained Vision: This is vision manifested through spiritual intimacy not manufactured through self reliance.**

I like what Andy Stanley says in his book entitled "Vioneering." He says, "Vision is a clear mental picture of what could be fueled by the conviction that it should be." **What establishes the conviction that it "should be" is the assurance that God ordained what "could be."**

- When it is God who defines the "could be's" we are empowered to move from the realm of it "should be" into the realm of it will be for it already is.

Most often it is just Jer 29:11 that gets quoted without the rest of the passage but the promise of v.11 is an orchestration of vs.12-14. The promise is...God's plan to give us His future, His welfare and His hope.

- The condition is we are to call, pray, seek and search. **God's future for man is conditional upon us calling, praying, seeking and searching because His future is a guarded future...it is an ordered future.**
- His future is given to those who have enough vision to call, pray, seek and search. When He finds those who will, He says, "I will listen to you and I will be found by you..."
- God is not obliged to listen to our plan for our future but He does promise to listen to His plan for our future.
- Jeremiah's future was an ordered future, then he was created to fit the order

Future: behind; after sounds like the opposite of what the word means to us. Commentators say, **"The Hebrew way of thinking about the future was like a man rowing a boat, he backs his way into the future."**

- It's not our past we go back to, it is His past. Our future is an ordered, manifest future. To get to it we must turn around and look behind. We turn and fix our eyes on the author and finisher of our faith then "row our boat" into all that He has ordered.
- **Visionaries are those who "go up" so they can see what He sees.** We go up and get our eyes enlightened. Then we come down and build out on earth what we saw while in His presence.

Enlightened: Is the Greek word "photizo" (photo). To have the eyes of our heart enlightened is to get an inspired look into what already is. **Visionaries are those who order their lives according to the photographs of God.**

- God takes His pictures of our future then downloads that picture into our spirit. If we follow that picture we prosper in all we do. If we trade that picture in for an inferior picture of our own, we forfeit our manifest future.
- Did you see yourself doing what you are doing before you did it? Did you see your child going to that College before you sent them? Did you see them marrying that person before you said Amen?
- God gave Abraham a “photo” of him being a father before he called him to be the father of many nations. Jesus was enabled to endure the pain of the cross because He was given a “photo” of our redemption.

Pr29:18 “Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained...” NAS

“Where there is no photograph from God there is no inspiration in what people see.” NAW

“Where there is no Word from God, people are uncontrolled.” NCV

“If people can’t see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves.” MSG

“Without a vision a people are made naked.” YLT

So let me stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance. Your quality of life will be determined by whose “photographs” you live by. “Self portraits” will not bring you into God’s promised future or allow you to walk in the hope of His proceeding word.

- That proceeding word comes again today as a call for Visionaries. A call for those who will call, pray, seek and search for the manifest future while rejecting every temptation to manufacture a future of their own.