

Sermon 1 April: 40-Day Co-Visioned 6, Invitation to Live the Guiding Vision

Introduction

Last week we looked at recognising the horrors of living in darkness against living a life in the light.

This week we look at the invitation to live God's Guiding Vision.

John 14:1-14 NIV

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Context of this passage

It's Thursday night, the night after the Lord's Supper. Here is where Jesus reveals to His disciples the ugly truth behind what's about to happen next.

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i. Jesus' Instructions to His disciples

A Christian's ability to perform the miraculous deeds that Jesus did and even Greater ones depends on 2 things:

1. The person who believes in Jesus
2. Recognising that Jesus is going to the Father

John 13:36 NIV

Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

This verse describes Jesus' Love for His disciples. He extended an open invitation to follow Him at the opportune time.

Following Jesus is really not an option. It's a personal decision on our parts! Why not? Just think about the alternative(s)!

As people of God, we must be seen to be different, but this difference is **Not** that we are good, but because Jesus is present in our midst.

ii. The invitation is NOT to "See to Believe" but simply to Believe.

Only when we believe; & this means not only believing in people but believing that God is active in this place.

John 20:27-29

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Often, in our faithless society, we must see, touch and feel before we believe.

John 14:7-9

⁷ If you really know me, you will know^[a] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

If you have seen Jesus, you have seen the Father. His very person reveals the Father. We all often say that Jesus is fully man. This serves as constant reminder to us that we Can follow in His footsteps. In His walk on earth, Jesus didn't always garner heavenly 'support fire' when things got rough/tough.

God didn't place us here for comfort, but to fulfill God's Vision in our lives.

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iii. Jesus promises a Greater Glory

John 14:12-14

*¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever **believes** in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be **glorified** in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*

In summary, we are to:

- 1. Believe in the Father &**
- 2. Glorify the Father.**

We have the final decision whether to follow Jesus, & whatever we ask of Him, He will bring forth to His Father, so that God can be glorified; not us nor the Church.

We can Never live Gods Vision by ourselves. We can only do this through Jesus. Only then will there be power to change lives and fulfill God's Vision for our lives.

Conclusion: Sharing the Holy Communion.

We are the connectors/mediators between God and man.

Look at the great men and women who lived their lives for God. Take encouragement from them.

Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us **throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles**. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

We are given in these verses 3 instructions for our fulfillment journey:

- 1. Get rid of every weight and sin that clings to us**
- 2. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.**

Isn't it amazing how couples start to look alike after spending some time together?

Similarly, the more we fix our eyes on Jesus, the closer we get to Him, & when we do, we will look more and more like Him.

- 3. If we follow points 1 & 2 above, we WILL NOT grow weary in our souls and give up.**