

VISION OF THE HOUSE

Lesson 1

Theme scripture: Psalms 92:13; Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

I. It's Time to get Plugged In

Acts 4:29 — 32; Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,

V-30 “by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

V-31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

*V-32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of **one heart and one soul**.*

1. It's time for the church to become one heart and one soul.

- A. One heart means we are connected because we are members of the Body of Christ.
- B. One soul means we are connected with the Vision of the House.
- C. Every church has its own vision. You must know the vision of your church or the mission statement. Then the next step is to ask God where you fit in the Vision of the House.

2. It's time we as believers receive a revelation of the Vision of the House.

- A. It is taking the vision of your Pastor as your own.
- B. It is getting plugged into the vision God gave your Pastor.
- C. It is making the local church a priority in our lives.

Heb 10: 23-25; Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

V-24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.

V-25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another and so much as we see the Day approaching.

Four Keys to Being Faithful

1. Hold fast your confession of hope. The word hold in the Greek means to use strength, to seize, obtain or to take.
2. Consider one another to stir up and to provoke each other in love and good works. Provoke means to urge, irritate, excite or to prick.
3. Do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Forsake means to desert or leave.
4. Exhort one another in these things. Exhort means to invite, to call near, to comfort and to pray.

3. It's time we see the importance of the local church. The local church is vital to our Christian lives because it is:

- Where we learn the foundational truths of the Word of God.
- Where we learn character, stability and faithfulness.
- Where we discover our gifts and talents.
- Where we discover the unique anointing on our lives.
- Where relationships are established that sharpen us.
- Where we learn to respect and honor the God-called leadership placed in our lives.
- Where we learn how to submit to authority.
- Where our faith in God is matured.
- Where we learn to appreciate our country and honor the flag.
- Where we witness the power of God.
- Where we learn the power of forgiveness.
- Where we raise our children and train them in the things of God.
- The place we call God's House.

*George Barna says that around 80% of the children who are not raised around the local church will not attend church as adults.

Bottom Line: **We must keep our kids in church.**

4. It's time to bring our vision under the "Vision of the House."

2 Kings 4:9-13; And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly."

V-10 "Please let us make a small upper room on the wall: and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there."

V-11 And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there.

V-12 Then he said to Gehazi his servant, “Call the Shunammite woman.”

When he had called her, she stood before him.

V-13 And he said to him, “Say now to her, ‘Look you have been concerned for us with this care. What can I do for you?’”

Four Keys to Establishing Your Vision Under the Vision of the House

1. The Shunammite woman perceived Elisha was a man of God.

A. Who are the men and women of God in your life?

*Eph 4:11,12; And **He gave** some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

B. What is your attitude toward them?

C. How do you respond to them?

D. What are you doing to be a blessing to them?

2. The Shunammite woman began construction of the Prophet's room

Removing a Wall

A. What walls do you have in your life? Are there walls of hurt, rejection, lack of trust that you need to release?

B. What action do you need to take to begin receiving the Word of God from your Pastor and other spiritual leaders? Personal reflection

3. The Shunammite woman built an upper chamber over the top of her house.

A. She placed the “Vision of the House” over hers.

Psalms 133:1-3; Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity!

V-2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments.

V-3 It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing, life evermore.

***Two similes are used by David to describe the joy of the brethren literally “sitting together” in unity: anointing perfume and refreshing mountain dew.**

B. She placed a spiritual covering over her life. **The Anointing** begins at the head.

4. The Shunammite woman furnished the room with a bed, chair, table, and a lamp.

A. The bed represents a place of rest and restoration.

B. The chair represents us taking our place and position in the Body of Christ and the local church.

C. The table represents the spiritual food and nourishment that comes by the Word of God released in our local church.

D. The lamp represents the revelation that will flow in our lives when we get our priorities in order.

Lesson 2

II. It's Time to Get out of the Comfort Zone, Develop the Gift Zone, Step into the Challenge Zone and Run Into the End Zone

An analogy to an NFL football game:

- Comfort Zone—Sitting in the Stands.
- Gift Zone—Going to Practice.
- Challenge Zone—Playing the Game.
- End Zone—When you score.

2 Tim 4:7; The Apostle Paul accepted his call — Moved out of his comfort Zone.

I have fought a good fight — Developing the Gift Zone.

I have kept the faith — Stepping into the Challenge Zone.

I have finished my course — Running into the End Zone.

1. The Characteristics of the Comfort Zone.

A. Place of least resistance.

B. Place where you can give your opinion at any time.

1. Where are the experts in a ball game?

- 2. Where are the experts in the local church?
- C. Place where most people live or die.
- D. Place where the opposition is not focused on you.
- E. Place where mistakes are not costly.
- F. Place where no victory is achieved.

2. The Characteristics of the Gift Zone.

- A. Place where you die to your desires and start serving others.

I Kings 19: 16, 19-21; And Elisha the son of Shaphat you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

V-19 So he departed from there, and found Elisha who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him,

V-20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

V-21 So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah and became his servant.

***You will never move into your place of ministry until you first become a Servant.**

- B. Place where your true gifts and talents will come forth. It will not be what is best for you but what is best for the team.

C. Place where you learn to deal with praise and criticism.

D. Place of great preparation.

I Corinthians 9:24-27; Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

V-25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

V-26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight not as one who beats the air.

V-27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Paul uses words like temperance, restrictions, buffet and discipline by hardships to describe the ministry.

Matt 13: 37, 38; He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

V-38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but tares are the sons of the wicked one.

***The first place a seed goes is into the dirt.**

E. Place where you learn to submit to authority.

Luke 2:41-52; His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

V-43 When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it.

V-44 but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances.

V-45 So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him.

V-46 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

V-47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.

*V-48 So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and **His Mother** said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, your father and I have sought You anxiously,"*

V-49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

V-51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was subject to them.

V-52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

When you determine in your heart to submit to the authorities in your life you will receive wisdom, stature, and favor with God and men.

F. Place where your character is built.

Lesson 3

III. It's Time to Step into the Challenge Zone and Run into End Zone

The Characteristics of the Challenge Zone

1. Place where you will face your greatest opposition. This is a goal line defense.

*Jude: 10-11; But these speak evil of whatever they do not know, and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. V-11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the **way of Cain**, have run greedily in the **error of Balaam** for profit, and have perished in the **rebellion of Korah**.*

A. The Way of Cain

I John 3: 11-12; For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

V-12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's works were righteous.

The way of Cain is the spirit of rejection, jealousy, and envy.

a. The spirit of rejection says if you reject my gift you reject me. Rejection means slighted or refused.

b. It is a spirit of offense. Offense leads to resentment; resentment to bitterness; bitterness to hatred.

c. To overcome we must totally forgive.

To totally forgive is to:

1. Pray they will not be punished for what they did.
2. Pray that no one will know about what was done.
3. Pray they will be blessed as though they never committed the sin.

B. The Error of Balaam.

1. It is the spirit of greed. What is in it for me?

Numbers 22:12; And God said to Balaam "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people for they are blessed."

2. It is seeking God's permission and not His will.
3. It is thinking that God must be in any scheme that will make our lives easier.
4. It is trusting man as your source and not God.
5. It is trying to secure your future by other means than the Biblical way, "The Tithe."

C. The Rebellion of Korah.

1. These rebels brought eight accusations against Moses. (Numbers 16)

- They claimed Moses and Aaron:
- Exercised more authority than they had the right to.
- Thought they were the only ones that were holy.
- Lifted themselves up above the people.
- Brought them out of Egypt, the real land of milk and honey, to let them die in the wilderness.
- Made themselves princes over the people.
- Did not bring them into the promise land.
- Did not give the people an inheritance of fields and vineyards as promised.
- Blinded the eyes of the people to the fact that none of these promises had been kept.

2. Every accusation made by Korah and his followers exposed their own motives. These are the same kind of accusations that are made today against Christian leaders.

They are accused of:

- Having too much authority.
- Thinking they are the only one who can hear from God.
- Exalting themselves above the people.
- Not leading the church in the right direction.
- Acting like a king over people who pay their salary.
- Teaching things that apply to them, but not to us.
- Preaching about the promises of God, but those promises are not being fulfilled.

3. Jeremiah 3:15; And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

A. Knowledge is the Hebrew word de'ah, which is used only six times in the entire Bible, and it refers to divine knowledge.

Isaiah 11:9; For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

B. Understanding means to be prudent, circumspect, to wisely understand and to prosper.

***This knowledge and understanding are to help you be a success in life.**

True Pastors will impart understanding that:

- Encourages clear, biblical thinking. Deut. 32:29
- Equips us for ministry by imparting understanding and instruction that comes from the Spirit of God. Nehemiah 9:20
- Instructs us in order that we can be guided by the Lord. Psalms 32:8
- Invigorates our hunger for God. Psalms 12:2
- Keeps us from hell. Proverbs 15:24
- Brings us happiness. Proverbs 16:20
- Makes us wise in our instruction to others. Proverbs 16:23
- Aids us in training our children. Proverbs 17:2

*** A Pastor fashioned after God's own heart is the original gift that keeps on giving. A Pastor should be precious in the sight of the believer who understands the valuable instruction he or she offers. As ministers of God, their wisdom originates from Gods throne, and whatever we apply that godly wisdom to will prosper.**

2. Place you will know the greatest excitement and joy.

3. Place you will learn if your preparation paid off.

Joe Frasier said, "If you cheated in the dark of the mornings you will be found out under the lights."

A boxer does not become a champion in the ring, he is recognized in the ring. He becomes a champion in his daily routine.

4. Mistakes can cost you in the Challenge Zone.

The Characteristics of the End Zone

1. Place of victory.

2 Kings 2: 9; And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

2. It inspires others to get into the game.

3. Place that you know it is worth it all.

Lesson 4

IV. It's Time to Stand with your Pastor

1. It's time to stand with your Pastor in prayer.

Isaiah 40: 3-5; The voice of one crying in the wilderness“Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

*V-4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain shall be brought low;
The crooked places shall be made straight and thorough places smooth;*

*V-5 The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

2 Corinthians 4:3-4; But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

V-4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God should shine on them.

Acts, chapters 10, 11 and 12 reveal the power of contention and the importance of prayer.

2. You stand with your Pastor by using your gifts and talents in the local church.

Matt 25: 14-23; “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

V-15 “And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability, and immediately he went on a journey.

V-16 “Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.

V-17 “And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.

V-18 “But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money.

V-19 “After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

V-20 “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’

V-21 “His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

V-22 “He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents beside them.’

V-23 “His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

3. You stand with your Pastor by being accountable to them.

Galatians 2:2; And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means you might run, or had run, in vain.

4. You stand with them by participating in all areas of the ministry of helps.

1 Corinthians 12:28; And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

5. You stand with them by honoring them.

1 Timothy 5:17; Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in word and doctrine.

6. You stand with them by standing beside them and not behind them. If you disagree with them learn to lay it before the Lord.

Do not speak against any leader.

7. You stand with them when you understand the difference between the office they stand in and their human side.

8. You stand with them when you determine to bloom where you're planted.

A Pastor of a large ministry said that his staff reminded him of a bunch of used cars. They are always in need of something.

How are church staff and ministry of helps like used cars?

1. A used car is better than a new car if the new one is never driven. What good is a car if all it does is sit in the driveway?
2. Whether we purchase a used car or a new one, after a week they both begin to depreciate. The problem in many ministries is that the staff and ministry of helps become de-appreciated.
3. All cars must be maintained. Every three to five thousand miles they need their oil changed.
4. A car we have owned for years that has never given us any major problems is faithful and worth keeping.
5. A used car can either be low maintenance or high maintenance.
6. No matter how much we like a car or how much we have paid for it if it continually causes problems, we have a lemon. We know we are a lemon if we continually display a sour attitude.
7. If we keep our car long enough, eventually it will be deemed an antique and the value will be greater now than when we bought it.