

Is Your Vision “Withered” or “Dead”? **Bridging the Gap Between Vision & Realization**

(Bible Study/Sermon Notes of Pastor Wendell K. “Skip” Wright; Kapena Wright Ministries, 8/31/09)

Key Verse(s):

Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:1-11

Additional Text/Reference Scriptures:

Old Testament:

Genesis 12:1-4/13:1-8, 14-18/15:1, 5-6; Isaiah 55:10-11; Ezekiel 37:1-10; Numbers 12:1-9/14:1-3, 6-10, 11, 13

New Testament:

Matthew 12:9-14 / 21:18-22; Mark 3:1-6 / 11:12-14, 20-24; Luke 6:1-11 / John 11:41-42 / 15:7; Romans 4:17; Hebrews 11:1

Lesson Objective:

The objective of this lesson is to help us see and hopefully understand more clearly that God’s desire is not stuck on the *Letter* of the Law of the Word, but the *Spirit* of the Law and that it’s that same Spirit that will not only lead us to our healing but will restore any part of our calling or the vision that God has given each one of us and it doesn’t matter what “religious folks” may say, if God gave you that vision, He will fulfill it in you, with you, or through you as He has shown you.

Introduction:

How do we bridge the gaps that may lie between our vision and the realization or fulfillment of it?

Let’s think on the man with the withered hand for a bit. In him, we have a picture of someone who was minding his own business in the temple, yet was caught in the line of fire as the Pharisees (religious folks) once again leveled accusations against Jesus in attempt to catch Him in a lie or contradiction that went against their own view of God’s Laws.

The man with the withered hand could be representative of us and that thing or those things that we’ve allowed to be shriveled up and become useless because we didn’t act or step out when God first told us we should. So, our perception is that the thing is useless or dead, and many times it’s because of inaccurate words that have been spoken into us from people we’ve considered to be Godly leaders or friends, but later we find they were more “religious” than “faith-full”.

So, even though we remain faithful in our attending church and going through the motions, there is still a part of us that’s incomplete or has been incapacitated because of those admonishments or inaccurate pearls of “wisdom” and we just continue on in our lives thinking that we missed

our chance and the thing we believed or the vision we saw that was from God becomes a thing not thought of any longer.

As we read through the various accounts of this event, we see that this man wasn't necessarily on a "spiritual quest" or "journey", but was, like us, more than likely in the temple because it was his usual practice and he was merely there to worship God and participate in the ceremonies or services as we call them, as was customary. In other words, there was nothing extraordinary or unusual about this man's actions. And, we also know by the testaments of Matthew, Mark and Luke, that he was probably just minding his own business at the time this entire ruckus was being caused by the Pharisees, in the temple.

And, yet, at the appropriate time, despite the fact that the "religious leaders" had set out to embarrass Jesus and attempted to disprove who He said He was, they brought up what they thought would be a point of contention or a point of reference into the legality of the law of Moses, and hopefully embarrass Him into shame with the people and His followers in the process, Jesus instead teaches all present in that temple that it is the "spirit" or "heart" of God to restore us and refresh us and make us whole again.

Why? Simply because He loves us and if it's God calling us out through Jesus or giving us a vision, He WILL do what He says or reveals to us, no matter what day or time of the week.

When we're called to step out in faith and respond by faith, great things happen:

God delights in restoring us to wholeness, especially those whom others (including possibly ourselves) have perceived as being "dead" or "useless" or even "less than whole".

GOD GAVE EZEKIEL A VISION (Ez. 37:1,2) :

Let's revisit Ezekiel 37:1-28. We see how God gave Ezekiel a clear vision of things that appeared to be not just "dead", but "dried up" and totally lifeless, without any chance of being alive again, "dry bones".

Remember what those bones represent: hopelessness, helpless; lifeless; useless; dead; gone forever. And yet, God gave Ezekiel a vision.

One of the reasons that God gives us a vision is to give us insight into what He is about to do or desires to do either in you, with you or through you. And the vision is for an appointed time.

In Ezekiel's case, it was for something that was coming up in his immediate future.

I can only imagine how many times the man may have thought of his arm being restored to usefulness or at least entertaining thoughts of "what would it be like to be whole again". I only say this because every person that I have personally known that has had or may have now a physical disability or impairment of some sort has at some time thought that very thing. What if? Or thought, "Wow, if I was only healed." They had or have a vision of being healthy, whole, restored.

GOD DIRECTED EZEKIEL TO TAKE ACTION (Ez. 37:4,9):

A vision requires us to use our faith and take some sort of action (obey).

There's no sense in having a vision if you're not going to act on it or respond to it, and, if it's a God vision, then it will also require you to put your faith in action to trust God to bring it to pass and fulfill that revelation.

God loves when we love Him, believe in Him, trust Him, and have faith in Him. And, when He gives us a vision, it's because He trusts us to act on it. It's when we don't act on it that we find ourselves frustrated and often feeling guilty or in worse cases, condemning of ourselves. And that's when we start to shrivel up and if we don't act to correct it, die in our spirits, then self-destruct in the flesh.

EZEKIEL OBEYED & ACTED ON THE VISION/WORD GOD GAVE HIM:

GOD RESPONDED TO EZEKIEL'S OBEDIENCE & FAITH:

Don't just give the 'appearance' of being fruitful, BE fruitful! If you don't it could kill you: