

Branches Part 5: Vision

- I. Tonight, we're continuing our series on leadership.
 - a. To recap, we've learned that...
 - i. Leadership is influence
 1. It's all about the example we set.
 - ii. The goal of a leader is Christ-likeness.
 - iii. The first pillar of leadership is meekness.
 1. To lead with humility and submission to God.
 - iv. The second pillar of leadership is integrity.
 1. Integrity focused on inside character instead of outward appearances.
 2. Integrity gives people the confidence to follow you.
 - b. Tonight we're talking about the third pillar of leadership, vision.
- II. Vision is so important that, even if you excel in other areas of leadership, you'll fail as a leader without it.
 - a. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."
 - b. Peter Marshall once prayed, "Give us clear vision that we may know where to stand and what to stand for – because unless we stand for something, _____."
- III. What is vision?
 - a. Vision is a "sneak preview" of coming attractions.
 - b. It's a glimpse of what God is going to do.
 - c. It's seeing what's already there but _____.
 - d. Vision is seeing past the temporal and obvious to behold the perspective of God.
 - i. Vision focuses on the prize, instead of the _____.
- IV. Effective vision is paired with faith.
 - a. Without faith, your vision is just a _____.
 - b. Excerpt from "The Greatest Among You" pages 104 & 105, "The African Impala is an amazing leaper. It can jump to a height of over 10 feet and cover a distance of over 30 feet. Yet these athletic animals can be kept in enclosures with fences less than three feet tall! This is because an Impala will not jump anywhere it cannot see the landing. In some ways we are like the Impala. We have the ability to leap high and cover a great distance, but we tend to shy away from unseen landings. We like to play it safe. Vision helps stretch us. It shows us a shadow of what will be,

and coupled with faith, it gives us the confidence to leap. Faith is to vision as fuel is to an engine.”

- c. Faith fuels our vision and vision fuels our faith.
- d. Faith takes our vision to a greater cause.
 - i. If you are your greatest cause, then your greatest cause will be yourself. (Our vision must go beyond simply fostering community or sustaining an organization. The greatest community takes place when we're _____)
- e. Your world view affects your faith level.
 - i. If you believe that God is loving and powerful and came to seek and save the lost, then you'll be more likely to have vision to do great things for Him.
 - ii. Prayer impacts your world view.

V. Great vision goes against the norm.

- a. Numbers 13:31 – 14:9 tells us about Joshua and Caleb's vision, “So they went up and explored the land from the wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, near Lebo-hamath. ²² Going north, they passed through the Negev and arrived at Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi—all descendants of Anak—lived. (The ancient town of Hebron was founded seven years before the Egyptian city of Zoan.) ²³ When they came to the valley of Eshcol, they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes so large that it took two of them to carry it on a pole between them! They also brought back samples of the pomegranates and figs. ²⁴ That place was called the valley of Eshcol (which means “cluster”), because of the cluster of grapes the Israelite men cut there. After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned ²⁶ to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran. They reported to the whole community what they had seen and showed them the fruit they had taken from the land. ²⁷ This was their report to Moses: “We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. ²⁸ But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak! ²⁹ The Amalekites live in the Negev, and the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country. The Canaanites live along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea^[a] and along the Jordan Valley.” But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. “Let's go at once to take the land,” he said. “We can certainly conquer it!” But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. “We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!” ³² So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: “The land we traveled through and

explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. ³³ We even saw giants^[b] there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!" Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. ² Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. "If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!" they complained. ³ "Why is the LORD taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" ⁴ Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!" Then Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground before the whole community of Israel. ⁶ Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing. ⁷ They said to all the people of Israel, "The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! ⁸ And if the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey. ⁹ Do not rebel against the LORD, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the LORD is with us! Don't be afraid of them!"

- i. Joshua and Caleb had a vision for taking the land.
- ii. They didn't get discouraged when everyone around them was saying it was impossible.
- iii. They focused on the prize instead of the obstacles.
- iv. They put their hope in God to see the vision come to pass instead of looking at their own strength.
 1. They knew they weren't strong enough to defeat the people living there, but they believed that God was on their side, and that was _____.
 2. A great vision involves accomplishing something that would be impossible if God didn't help with it.

VI. A good leader gives the vision to those following.

- a. "Blind followers will quickly turn into deserters if their eyes are not opened to see the path they have happened to take."
- b. Make your vision clear to your team.
- c. Make your vision easy to _____.
- d. Make your vision succinct so your team can communicate it to others.
- e. "You can't blow an _____ trumpet."
- f. Include in your vision how you plan on reaching your destination.
 - i. What's your strategy?
- g. Make sure to celebrate the small and big victories along the way.

VII. Pray/Close