

Life in 3D – Snapshot: Vision
September 17, 2010

Continuing our study in the word that we have been studying for the past little while. Have you ever noticed or have you noticed lately, that we're becoming a little obsessed with 3D. I don't know if you've paid attention but it seems like every movie that comes out in the last six months at least, is now coming out in 3D. And then, there's even movies coming out in 3D that I think I'm not sure I want to see that in 3D. I think I'd be more comfortable watching that in 2D, actually given the content of the movie. But it seems like 3D movies are the big rage and what we're all into and we used to be satisfied with just the regular 2D the flat-dimensional kind of picture, but now we want something that kind of jumps out of the screen at us as we're watching it. We want it to be 3D and just jump right out at us.

Several months ago we took Sawyer to see Shrek in 3D and it was entertaining, not so much the movie but sitting there watching him watch the movie with his 3D glasses on and watching as the horses and the carriage come riding out of the screen and he's sitting in his seat kind of inching back because he's worried he's going to get run over. But the 3D it's very real and it's very life-like and it's a powerful kind of thing. I don't know if you've seen the Ads on TV but their working on getting these 3D TV's so you can be at home and watch 3D TV in your house. I was just wondering about that and imagining what that would be like to have an authentic 3D television to be sitting in your home and watching your favourite TV or movie and having it just jump right out at you. Can you imagine watching sports and have like, or playing your favourite video game and it just kind of zooms right into your living room, or sports and it just jumps off the screen and you feel like you're right in the middle of all the action. Discovery channel would be fascinating in 3D as things just kind of jump out and even the food television would be more interesting in 3D. I'm really waiting for the taste TV and the smell vision for food TV to really catch on, but 3D would be a good step in the right direction, I think, so you know, they're working on these 3D TV's and there are some that have come out and they're on the market and they've started to sell but they haven't really caught on quite as much, I think partly because everyone has just laid out a bunch of money to buy an HD TV and they don't really feel like having to go out and buy a new TV again, but I think the biggest limitation to the 3D TV's is, the glasses. No one wants to have to sit in their living room wearing these glasses all the time and even the newer ones are a little more stylish than this but you have to have all of these glasses on hand and if you walk into the room and you don't have the special glasses on, not only is it not in 3D it's kind of worse than it would be normally. So you just kind of have to have this whole stockpile of glasses and if people come over to watch TV at your house I guess it's BYOG, you know bring your own glasses so that you can watch the TV otherwise you're just kind of left out of the loop. And so, you know that's the big limitation but, believe it or not, they're getting beyond that. In China there's actually a TV on the market made by this company TCL 42 inch flat screen TV, 3D, no glasses required. It's only \$20,000.00, but it's there and so you can and this picture isn't very good but from what I've read of the reviews and it just jumps right at you, 3D. Actually there's a couple companies here in North America who say in 2011 they're going to have a "glasses free" 3D television.

Now, all that to say that this market of 3D television is changing very rapidly, but even as fast as that is changing and progressing I think that our own vision and perspective is changing just as rapidly and just as fast. You see, as our world changes and as our culture changes our perspective changes. And as we grow and as we learn new things and experience new things, our perspective changes. Just ask yourself, do you see things, do you see the world and do you see things that go on the same way you saw them 10 years ago. Odds are, you probably don't. And that's because our perspective is always, always, changing. You might say that our ocular assessment always alters our attitude and approach. That's just a big wordy way of saying 'the way we see things, dramatically affects the way we feel about them'. And when our perspective about something changes, the way we feel about it changes as well. And so the question I want to lead out with this morning and I'm going to get a show of hands on this one, is: Are you a visionary person? Put up your hand if you would consider yourself a visionary. That's what I was hoping for. A very small percentage of the group would say that we're visionary people. Actually, most of the people who said they were visionary people, were like this (barely put their hands in the air). Because, we don't feel comfortable stepping out and saying "Yes, I'm a visionary person". And most of us don't actually feel like that's who we are. The problem with that is that I think we have to be visionary to make it through this life. I think we have to have a vision in our hearts to survive from day-to-day and if we don't, we get to a very bad and uncomfortable place. Vision is simply the ability to see beyond the present reality. To be a visionary is to be someone who can see beyond what's right here now to what could be. And kind of adjacent to that, is to be able to see how to get from here to there. And that's what being visionary is all about.

Now the ability to see beyond the moment, is vital. And actually the inability to see beyond the moment, is rather blinding, is rather constricting. It puts us in a place where, have you ever been in this place, at this corner? Right? You're at the stop sign and don't go ahead, don't go back, no left turn, no right turn. Have you ever been in a situation like that in all your life and that's where you feel like you are. It's like, I am here and I can't see how to get somewhere else. I can't see beyond this present reality that I'm dealing with. And you need to be a visionary to get beyond that. When you're in that kind of situation, it can be devastating and demoralizing and downright depressing. But, when you have that ability to see beyond the moment. To see what could be. That is something that is entirely invaluable to you. So this morning, we want to talk about being "Visionary". We want to talk about the "Vision" that we have for our lives. And so, I'm just going to start out here with the five "W's". And these are probably not the five "W's" that I'm using and this covers what I think most of us look to for our vision. These are the five visions that we kind of try to chase after and have in our hearts. So here we go.

The first "W" is WISDOM. This is the vision that I have and if I gain enough wisdom, if I gain enough knowledge, if I figure enough things out, then that's going to take me from here to that better place that I want to be. And if we can learn enough things and if we can solve enough puzzles, then we are going to be in that better life that we desire.

Number 2. **WORK.** And this isn't just the office kind of work. This is any kind of work or labour or toil or anything we try to achieve. And we have this sense, we have this vision that, if I can achieve enough. If I can have enough success at work. If I can move up the ladder. If I can accomplish enough things, then my vision is, that by doing that work and succeeding in that work, I'm going to end up in that better place that I wanted to be at.

Number 3. And I had a hard time finding a word for this. **WOO HOO.** And this is the one that says, and Homer is a good example for this, because Homer is all about doing things that he likes and doing things that he enjoys and doing things that are fun. And so anything that falls in the category that makes you go "Woo Hoo" then that's in this category. Pleasure and joy and fun and it's not just, you know, it could be like, maybe it's going out on your boat and water skiing, maybe it's playing cards, maybe it's doing puzzles, maybe it's whatever, it is that brings you that sense of joy and happiness and fun and pleasure, that's what's in this vision. And this vision says that if you fill your life with enough of those fun things, that's going to get you from that stuck place at the stop sign, to the place that you really want to be.

Number 4. **WEALTH.** Money, stuff. And this one is pretty clear cut. It says if we, you know what, I saw a shirt this week that said "Money can't buy you love, but fortunately, I love money". And so, that's kind of the philosophy of this vision, right? It's that, you know what, we need money to survive. We need money to get things and so if I can just get enough money. If I can just pay off enough of my bills. If I can just purchase a big enough car or a big enough house or a nice enough whatever, if I can accumulate enough wealth, then that's going to move me from where I am to where I want to be.

Number 5. I kind of cheated with this one. **WHATEVER.** And that means, if I forgot anything in the first 4, I've covered it in number 5. Whatever else might be your vision for getting from where you are to where you want to be. And maybe for you that's relationships. Maybe you think, If I build enough connections and enough friendships then that's going to lift me from where I am to where I want to be. Or maybe, it's a family and you think, you know, If I pour all of me life into my family and I have these kids and we just have this great family life and I pour everything into that, that is going to lift me from where I am to where I want to be.

And so these are the five "W's" and these aren't bad things. Most of these are actually very good thing. But you know, we could spend one morning each on all five of these different things. And we're not going to do that, because, well, a couple reasons really. First of all, I'm pretty sure that if I tried to convince you that whatever vision you are currently investing in isn't going to work out for you, you're not going to be convinced by me. You're not going to believe me, because you're in it right now and you're investing in it and so you're going to have to figure that out on your own. If you're investing in one of those visions right now and if that's what you're hanging your hat on, and holding on to, on your bookmark there's a list of passages out of Ecclesiastes that addresses kind of each one of those and gives you some

insight into where maybe some of the shortcomings of each of those is going to be and so I encourage you to look those up later. And so, we've talked about all of those things before, we'll talk about them all again. And so, this morning, I don't really want to address those five things and stand up here and say, "well these five things are all bad and here's why they're bad". But, what I want to do this morning, is to say this:

When you get to that point, and I think you will, when you get to that point when you realize that the vision that you've been working with, this idea that you've had. The plan that you've had to get from here to where you want to be, when you figure out, 'you know what, this isn't working'. When you figure out 'you know what, this isn't getting me where I want to go. This isn't achieving what I wanted to achieve'. When you get to that point, then I want you to remember what we talk about this morning. When you get to the point when you feel like 'you know what, I need a better vision for my life'. Then remember what we say this morning.

What you need to remember is that God has a vision for your life. And here's what it is. Paul talks in Ephesians Chapter 1:4-5, 9-10. It says:

"Long ago before He made the world, God loved us and He chose us in Christ to be holy and without flaw, in His eyes. His unchanging plan has ALWAYS been to adopt us into His own family and bring us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure. God's secret plan is now been revealed to us. It's a plan centered on Christ, designed long ago according to His good pleasure and this is His plan. At the right time, He will bring everything together under the authority of Christ. Everything in Heaven and on Earth".

Paul says, here's God's plan. Here's God's plan from the very beginning, here's God's plan that has never changed. God's plan for this world. God's plan for you is to adopt you into His family, to restore His relationship with you as a father to a child. And not only that, His plan is to take everything and bring it together under Jesus and make it right. Make it the way it was supposed to be.

I don't know how many of you have heard of, well, do you remember back a few years ago Hurricane Katrina came through the Gulf coast and destroyed huge parts of especially New Orleans, and just reeked havoc. One of the place where most of the damage was, or some of the worst damage was anyways, what's called the Lower 9th Ward. And houses were destroyed and washed away and the ones that were there were later condemned as inhabitable and people just left because there was nothing there for them. Well, Brad Pitt came along and founded the "Make it Right" Foundation. Because he went down there and he saw that some people were coming to him and saying "Please do something". And Brad said "I'm going to make this right". And so the Make it Right Foundation has decided what they are going to do is we are going to build new houses to replace the houses that were destroyed and washed away. And it's not right that these people have lost their houses and so we're going to make that right, we're going to fix the damage that has been done. But they go one step further and

say “we’re not just going to fix the damage that’s been done, when we build these new houses, we’re going to make them right. And we’re going to make them, eco friendly houses, using environmentally friendly materials. They’ve got solar panels on and all of these things and not only that, but they’ve build them to withstand storms. So that, when the next hurricane comes, this house will still be standing. And the whole idea of this is we’re not just going to replace it, we’re not just going to fix it, which is wonderful, but we’re going to do it bigger and we’re going to do it better and we’re going to make it right.

Well God looks at the world and He says “I created this world and it was literally a paradise, but then the big storm hit. Everything go messed up. Everything got corrupted and broken and now my vision is to MAKE IT RIGHT. I’m going to make everything right, in Jesus.

Remember the story out of Matthew, John the Baptist is in jail and he doesn’t know it but he’s going to be beheaded and so he sends some of his disciples to Jesus and he says “Go ask Jesus, just double check for me because I believe Him but I’m a little antsy here so go double check for me would you, go ask Jesus ‘are you the One that we’ve been waiting for? Are you the Messiah?’” And so, the disciples go to Jesus and I’ll skip down to the bottom there and Jesus replied: Matt. 11:2-6:

“Go back and report to John what you hear and see. The blind receive sight. The lame walk. Those who have leprosy are cured. The dead are raised. The Good News is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who doesn’t fall away because of Me.”

Jesus says “Go back and tell John, we’re making things right”. Go back and tell John that God is fulfilling His vision and that will assure John that I am the One.

Remember the story in Luke Chapter 15. The story the woman who lost the coin and searched diligently to find it. The lost sheep and the shepherd goes out and searches all over the county side to find it. The lost boy who runs off to a foreign country and spends all of his dad’s money and all of his inheritance. The dad stands at the end of the road looking and waiting for him to come home and runs out to greet him when he returns. God’s vision is to make things right.

The story of Zacchaeus, the short guy, who couldn’t see Jesus because the crowd was too thick so he climbs up in a tree and Jesus sees him and says “Zacchaeus, I’m going to your house”, and they go to Zacchaeus’ house and He has dinner with Zacchaeus and Zacchaeus is a messed up guy and he’s a tax collector and he’s been cheating people and he’s been lying and essentially stealing from people through their taxes. And at the end of the story Zacchaeus says “you know what, I’m going to give back four times what I took”. And Jesus said “Yeah, that’s right”.

The Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost. To make things right. God’s vision is to make things right. And it’s a broad vision. God wants to make things right

physically. He wants to cure physical things like poverty and famine and war and abuse. God wants to make those things right. God wants to make things right emotionally. Guilt and shame and depression and scars and hurts of the past and in grief and all of those things that have come into our world, those emotional hurts that we have. God wants to make those right. God wants to make things right relationally in this world. He wants to help people get along. Which is something we don't always do very well on our own. He wants to help us forgive. He wants to help us to love each other. To support each other and encourage each other. God wants to make things right personally. He wants to help people deal with their issues of anger and lust and jealousy and greed and whatever it is that is spoiling your life. God wants to make that right. And God wants to make things right, spiritually. He wants to restore His relationship with you. And that is God's vision. And God's vision for life made right is so radically different than anything else we've ever seen, that it's really very similar to life in 3D. There's a contrast between a two dimensional picture and a three dimensional picture and when we experience God's vision for life, life made right. It's so different than what anything we've experienced before.

Now, none of that is probably very new to you. If it is, that's great, I'm glad and I'm glad you got a chance to hear it. But, those are the kinds of things we say a lot around here. Those are the kind of things, those are the core things that we hang on to here and we remind ourselves of those things. So this morning I want to give you a couple things. A little bit of a twist on that to take home with you.

Here they are. Couple things to remember about God's vision. First of all, When you make God's vision, your vision, you inherit a vision that is bigger and better than any of your own. Your vision is wealth. Your vision is, I need to accumulate money so I can get ahead. And God says "Huh, why accumulate money, let's wipe out poverty".

Maybe your vision is fun and pleasure and let's have a good time. And God says "You know what, let's move beyond that, we're not just going to have pleasure and fun and enjoy a good time, let's make people emotionally healthy across the board".

And maybe your vision is to get to the top. That's what you're aspiring to. And God says "Let's forget getting to the top, let's all try and get along". Wouldn't that be a better and grander version.

And God's vision is not only bigger and better but here's the best part. It actually gets you to where you are wanting to go. All those other visions that we try to create and fabricate on our own, still leaves us stuck at that same corner. It's not the reality that we wanted. It's not the life that we wanted. But God's vision actually get's us where we wanted to go.

When you make God's vision your vision, you have your perspective adjusted. Instead of seeing things and people and situations as broken, and corrupted and messed up, you start to see God's vision for them. Suddenly poverty is not too big. Famine is not too far away.

Prejudice and inequality and unfair treatment are no longer not our problem. Alcoholics and drug users and gamblers aren't just addicts. Problems aren't unsolvable/ Fences aren't unmendable. People aren't impossible. And when you make God's vision, your vision, you have your perspective adjusted and you start to see people and things and situations the way He does. Which leads to the third one.

When you make God's vision your vision, you have your mission in life redefined. So now, when you see somebody down on 20th street who needs food or needs clothes, what you see is a situation and you see something that needs to be made right. And it's your mission to see it get made right because that's God's vision. When you see people who are hurting and who are scarred and who are struggling with emotional issues, you see your mission to see it get made right because that's God's vision for them. When you see people hurting and being treated unfairly, you see your mission to see it made right because that's God's vision. When you have a beef with somebody and your relationship with somebody is getting rocky, and maybe falling apart, you see your mission to see it get made right, because that's God's vision. When Ray or Bob come talk about India or Travis comes next week and talks about Ecuador, it's not just a far off place and things they are doing, you see your mission to see that get made right, because that's God's vision. When you see your co-workers or your friends or your classmates who don't have a relationship with God, you see your mission to get that made right, because that's God's vision. And you do it not out of obligation or vindictiveness for the wrongs that have been made but because your small act in that single moment, is part of a much greater vision.

So, this morning I leave you with these thoughts. When your visions and plans for a better reality fall short. Consider adopting God's vision for life. And if you ever wonder what God sees when He looks at your messed up life, He sees what it could be. He sees what it was meant to be and He says "I want to make that right".

Finally, consider the difference it would make if you, as a follower of Christ, if we, as a body of believers, viewed ourselves and each other and our city and the world, like God does, and embraced His mission to see things get made right, physically, emotionally, relationally, personally and spiritually. That is the vision of God. It's the vision, to make things right.