

The Church: Inheritance leads to Vision

God's people had been delivered from slavery in Egypt. They now stood at the entrance to the Promised Land. This land had been promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and more recently to Moses. They now stood ready to receive the gift God had prepared to hand over to them. But they were soon to discover that our inheritance must be actively taken and may require overcoming many obstacles as we have an enemy. The Church also has land to be taken which has been won for us at the cross. We too have a spiritual enemy who has controlled whole groups of people and he is not keen we wander in and claim our inheritance. He will fight us "tooth and nail" to prevent us from taking what is actually ours.

Read Numbers 13 and 14. Picture the battle between those who moved toward faith and those who were frozen with fear. The purpose of the exploration by the spies was not to determine if they should take the land but to work out the strategies to be conquerors and gain their inheritance. The Vision God gives to his church to take the spiritual land unfolds here in this old testament story. Follow the flow;

1. A vision demands new eyes (Num 13: 17-25)
 - What did they encounter?
 - How did each of the spies respond?
 - How do we grow eyes of faith?
2. A vision is above logic and reason (numbers 13:26-29)
 - Describe the report the spies gave
 - In what way is the report just good common sense?
 - How does reason interfere with the Vision God may have for us as a church?
3. The vision must take root (Numbers 13:30)
 - How does Caleb respond?
 - What is the language of faith?
 - How easy is it to silence the fearful?
4. The vision requires us knowing our identity (Numbers 13:31-33)
 - What is the main cause of the spreading of the "bad report?"
 - Why can we be inclined to do this at times?
 - How does knowing our core identity in Christ overcome this attitude?
5. Our vision of God informs our vision for the church (Numbers 14:1-4)
 - What was their attitude to God now ?
 - What then happens to the vision?
 - How can our vision of who God really is be restored?
6. A true vision makes us hungry for the glory of God (Numbers 14:5-9)
 - Describe how these 2 brave men spoke out
 - What is it called when we refuse to walk in faith according to this passage
 - How can we be more than conquerors? (Rom8:31-39)

7. Failure to step into vision is costly.

- What was the consequence of failing to walk in faith?
- Read v.35 and discuss how God sees the attitude of the people
- What was the reward for Caleb and Joshua?

Our vision for the Church must be primarily based on our vision of Christ.

How do we grow our vision of who Jesus Christ is in our lives and our church?

Why is it not easy to step in to the Vision God has planned for us as a church?

Why is faith such a crucial ingredient for the people of God?