

Discussion Guide for Message 9/10/17

Vision: Clarity for Your Life

READ Psalm 67 and Matthew 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION: The book of Proverbs tells us that without vision, people perish. Vision is critical to human flourishing, but the reality is vision without action is useless. The question for God's people is; what's His vision? What's His mission? What's He about? As we discover what He's about, we learn what we're to give our lives to. The paradox for most of us is that we make ourselves the point of life when the only thing that will ever bring us joy and satisfaction is living for what we have been created for!

1. What do you see as similarities and differences from the account of the book of Acts and Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19-20?

2. As Christians we are familiar with the term disciple, but all of us see different facets of what discipleship and disciple mean. Discuss what these terms mean to you and try to prioritize the elements that you understand in each term. Now let's get serious. **Where are your strengths and reservations in being/becoming a "disciple" and in making disciples of others?**

3. We ride the coattails of the church and Christians that preceded us. When we look at the book of Acts one could say "*that was quite a launch*" for the church and now we play spectator and see how this adventure plays out. It's quite another thing when we take Jesus' command to all believers seriously (which we should) in Matthew 28 regarding making disciples (*training everyone far and near into this new way of life*). In Acts the "**whistle**" blew and the game began. Would you agree that Jesus expects the game to be "in play" until the final "**whistle**" when He returns? I'm certain Jesus is aware of the scenario for "Mission Impossible," where the narrator says "this is your mission, should you decide to accept." (But I don't

think He views His commands as options, do you?) **If we see the story in Acts as the “kickoff,” what must our individual role as part of the church be as players in the game if there is to be a church in the next century?**

4. **Read 2 Cor. 5: 18-20.** God’s vision for His world is to see all people restored to Him using us as rescue agents. Both Matthew 18 and the Corinthian passage make that clear and downright personal. Like Jesus, we are to reach out to people who may not be like us, think like us or believe like us and do so without concern for the watching public. In essence we are to follow orders and engage the people in our proximity though they may be like the woman at the well, Matthew the tax collector, or Saul the terrorist. People who were not like Jesus liked Jesus, and he liked them. He did what he could to make them comfortable. **How, as a Group or as individuals, can you get over the hump of reservation and fear and the possible rejection of Jesus’ love message and begin to gain comfort in your own skin pursuing lost and gospel needy people?**
