

Gods vision in my heart

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Date: 17 September 2023

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[0:00] David Jeremiah said the only way the corporate body of Christ will fulfill the mission Christ has given for it is for Christians to have a vision for fulfilling that mission personally.

It's not enough for you to know that that's what God's Word said. Instead, it's not enough for you to even be able to articulate that vision and be able to say this is God's vision for the church.

There really comes a point where you as an individual have to grapple with that vision in His Word and say, Lord, I want to be that.

It's not what I want to be. That's not the heavy thing here. The heavy thing is, as I see what God's church is in His Word, I've got to come to a place where I grapple with His vision for the church and say, Lord, I want to be that.

I don't want to be what we've been. I don't even want to see what I see others doing. I want to look into Your Word and get a vision from You in Your Word to say, I want to be that.

[1:16] That's what has inspired believers in the past. That is the revivals that have just burst onto the scene in our history.

That is what drove them, is that they got into the Word of God and the Holy Spirit got into them. And when the Holy Spirit got into them and they were in the Word, then all of a sudden you've got men and women doing great things for God and building churches and starting movements and missions spreading around the world.

And all these things are happening because the Holy Spirit of God is moving on the hearts of men. Personally, said, Lord, here am I. Send me.

And that's why you're here today. That's why you're here. You're not here by accident. This is not like cosmic accident, you know, one right after the other that, oh, wow, I just found myself in church today.

Oh, awesome. I'm glad you're here. But I've got news for you. God had a plan and you're not here by accident. God has a plan for you even being here today. Maybe you don't have a relationship with Christ.

[2:25] And he's been leading you down a path so that you can hear the gospel. And he brought you into a group of people where you can hear the gospel among them. And all of a sudden, you're going to give your life to Christ.

And your life's about to be radically changed. And maybe you're the believer that's been going down this path and God brought you into this building and brought you to this group of people, built relationships.

And all of a sudden, now he's leading you to form relationships where you're going to be a part of an awesome church. It's going to be used by God.

The 1689 Baptist Confession describes the church this way. In exercising the authority entrusted to him, the Lord Jesus, through the ministry of his word and his Holy Spirit, calls to himself out of the world those who are given to him by his father.

They are called so that they will live before him in all the ways of obedience that he has prescribed for them in his word. Those who are called, he commands to live together in local societies or churches for their mutual edification and the fitting conduct of public worship that required that he requires of them while they are in the world.

[3:50] The members of these churches are saints by calling, visibly displaying and demonstrating in and by their profession and life, their obedience to the call of Christ.

They willingly agree to live together according to Christ's instruction, giving themselves to the Lord and to one another by the will of God with the stated purpose of following the ordinances of the gospel.

To every church gathered in this way, they said, conforming to Christ's mind as declared in his word, he has given all power and authority that is in any way necessary to conduct the form of worship and discipline that he has instituted for them to observe.

He has also given them commands and rules to use and carry out that power rightly and properly. That's our goal, right?

So that is just a summary of all the teaching of scripture that we're looking at and saying, that's what we want to be. That is what I want for my family. It's what I want to be a part of.

[5:03] Because that's what I see in God's word. We're personally establishing what God has already called us to be. So that the vision of what God is calling us to be can be confirmed, seen.

So that's what we're doing. This is all part of that. We're leading up to a day where we're getting in God's word. We're seeking his face. We're looking for the vision that he has for us so that we can articulate.

Why has God brought you and me together for this work on this day? And he's going to show us.

So this morning, I'm talking about how God implants a vision into our heart. And it's just coming out of the reading that we've been in in 2 Samuel. I mean, 1 and 2 Samuel, amazing.

I mean, I could just read these over and over and over again. I could stay in them for such a long time, as you know, right? 1 Corinthians. I was in for quite a while.

[6:08] That was my favorite book. Now I'm reading this one. Now this is my favorite book. You know what will happen in the next book? It's going to be my favorite. I'm just telling you. What is God doing in my heart?

Heart issues are important in 1 and 2 Samuel. They're very important. In fact, this is what you see about David. It is that the scripture says David was a man after God's own heart.

That's right. And we all remember that. That's just such a strong statement about who David was.

That's not so that we'll worship David. It's because David worshiped God. And so we should be like David and worship God.

The whole story there is just pointing us to the fact that God is sovereign. And David recognized it. David saw the sovereignty of God. That God was amazing in every part of his life.

And he had such an appreciation for it. That you and I ought to be looking at him and saying, Man, I wish I was like David. I wish I was like that. I want to see God like David sees God.

[7:08] I want to appreciate God like David is appreciating God. What is God doing in my heart? Three key factors in pursuing God's vision in this and what he's doing in my heart.

And it's summarized in three words in this passage this morning. Training, testing, and trusting. Three words.

Training, testing, and trusting. So let's look at the word today. As I've said, we're going to, I'm going to stand up here and preach. And there's going to be something between you and me. What is it? God's word. And so we're going to stand together. We're going to look at God's word and see what he has to say as he plants a vision in our heart. Okay. So second Samuel, did I ever tell you the verse?

No, you guys are all looking at me going, come on. Second Samuel chapter seven and verse one. Second Samuel, not first Samuel. Second Samuel chapter seven, verse one.

[8:17] And these are the words of the Lord. Now, when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan, the prophet, see now I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.

And Nathan said to the king, go do all that is in your heart. For the Lord is with you.

And that same night, the word of the Lord came to Nathan. Go and tell my servant David, thus says the Lord.

Father, we pray even as we stop there, there's so much, so much to follow. But even as we stop and just meditate on these points this morning, I pray that your Holy Spirit would just be here with us because we together.

And we individually. Lord, we want to know what you're doing in our heart. We want to be able to examine what's gone on in the past.

[9:33] The blessings of the present so that we can take the burdens of our heart and lay them before you. So that they will be in line with, thus says the Lord.

And what you say, Lord, we pray that that's what we will desire more than anything in this world to be. The gospel has been revealed to us.

Lord, we pray that if there's someone that doesn't know Christ in here, that they will hear the work of Christ in all of this. And that they will say, that's what I want to be. And that they'll turn from sin and turn to Jesus.

And that today will be a day of salvation and change and transformation and newness. Being born again in your presence. And for believers that are here today, I pray that we would just be reminded that you are doing things in our heart.

You are drawing our hearts to you. You're training our hearts. You are just helping us so that we can weigh our hearts before you. And Lord, you're doing this so that you can reveal your will to us and in us.

[10:34] So that we'll just submit those things to you for clarity and confirmation so that you will be glorified in all that we say and do. So be with us today.

And it's in Christ's name we pray. Amen. Amen. Amen. What a great, great encouragement that we need today.

Okay. Three words. What are the three words? That's right. That's right. Okay. Some of you had it right.

All right. Some of you are going, I think it was a T. Training. All right. We start there. Training. Why do I say that? Look at the text.

Chapter 7, verse 1. Now, when the king lived in his house. When the king lived in his house. So it's giving you the context. It's framing this for you so that you can see what's going on in David's life.

[11:31] We learn a lot about David through 1 Samuel. We'll learn a lot about David in Chronicles. We'll learn a whole lot about David in the Psalms. When you start reading as David is singing to God about all these things that happened in his life.

We get a glimpse into David's heart like nobody else in the scripture. And what a vision of who David is. But David's heart has been trained.

This vision for the building of the temple. Which is going to inaugurate this new covenant. This Davidic covenant.

A whole new season of God being at work. Is all beginning in this vision that God's planting in David's heart. That he's working under a different covenant period.

And it's important to know. Because this helps you see the means by which he's trying to discern God's will. Right? He's going like we talked about last week.

[12:32] To the priest who is the mediator between God and his people. And the priest is using the Urim and the Thummim. And strange things like that to discern God's will.

These stones of decision are something that God is using with the priest. So that when they need to inquire of God. When they need to see what God is doing. They're trying to discern a vision from the Lord.

Or what direction to take. Or things to do that are of grave importance. They're taking these things to the Lord. By going to the priest. And him using the Urim and the Thummim.

And all these things as a means. But that's during this covenant time. And these are at that time the means to discern God's will. Not so right now.

Because we are not in that covenant. So it's good to keep that in mind. That God is working in some different things. In different ways. These things were as Hebrews tells us.

[13:29] These things were a shadow of that which is to come. And now we are under the new covenant in Christ. The new covenant of his blood. And so now we recognize that God is working in this time.

In a different way. Through his Holy Spirit. As he has given us his word. And so now through his word. And through prayer. And in the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is using these things to guide us.

So that we discern his will through these things. And he's even given us the church. And given us authorities in the church. So that we can have wisdom in a multitude of counselors.

So that you can talk to a spiritual authority in your life. And yes. A pastor is. An elder is a spiritual authority in your life. Which is why the scripture says. Obey those who are over you in the Lord.

So that it will be a joy for them. And not a grief. Because that will not be profitable for you. Right? Just the relationship. We're all equal before the foot of the cross.

[14:29] But elders do have a unique role in the church. And there's some of those things that we've got in this new covenant. That God's given us as a gift. So that we can together look at his word.

And pray. And talk to the authorities in your life. And seek wisdom in a multitude of counselors. And try to discern. What's God's will in this? I don't have to go to the Thummim and the Urim anymore. I don't have to find a priest. I go to the Lord. There's one mediator between Christ and man. That is Christ Jesus the righteous. And so this.

At this point in David's life. This is training. He is in the house now. He's not on the battlefield. This is a transition moment. He has been on the battlefield.

He has been hiding in the cave. In fact where he is now was just a stronghold where he was hiding out. And this stronghold where he was hiding out. And now fighting some little skirmishes here on this place.

[15:34] Is now becoming the city of David. He's conquered an enemy there. And it became a stronghold place. And he's becoming greater and greater in this place. And there's building around his house.

The city of David. And this is the place that you find him here. He's reflecting in a moment as he is in the house. Now when David comes into the house.

As one theologian Benjamin Warfield used to say. The faith that has not been tested cannot be trusted. Can I get an amen to that?

Have you been through some trials? Have you been through some crisis? Have you been on the battlefield? Have you been on the run? Have you been hiding out in the cave?

From time to time? I mean you got to understand. This is a transition moment for him. Now he is in the house. And the house is no longer Saul's house.

[16:39] He was in Saul's house. When it described him serving God. He found himself in Saul's house. Saul's dead. And the passage just before this. It's the mark of transition from the death of Saul.

And the beginning of David's reign. So 1 Samuel. All about Saul. 2 Samuel. All about David. Now there's other people in there too.

But it's about his reign. The reign of Saul. And the reign of David. So now you're coming into the reign of David. Saul's no longer king. It's no longer Saul's house.

He's not under the shadow of Saul. Saul's legacy is dead. And I mean dead. Right? What happens with Micah.

Saul's daughter. She. The scripture said just a few verses before. And she will not have children the rest of her days. Right? Legacy.

[17:37] Dead. David's in the house. It's a new place. And the enemies have been put to rest all around him.

It says. And so you see this as a place of peace. There's a transition where he's now reflecting on the enemies that have been put to rest. Remember. This isn't David's words here.

This is the words of the prophet summarizing what happened. He's summarizing after the fact. It's probably Nathan writing this after the fact. And he's describing what happened in David's life.

Rest from the enemies. The Philistines as it described. The Ammonites. The Moabites. The Edomites. The Amalekites. And yes. Even Saul. The enemies of David. All around. Those that were outside.

And those that were inside the kingdom. And it gives credit where credit is due. Right? Who put those enemies to rest?

[18:36] The Lord put those enemies to rest. And David recognized that it was the Lord who put those enemies to rest. Who is it that brought the trials into David's life?

Who is it that put the spirit in Saul so that Saul would pursue David? David. The Lord put the spirit in Saul so that Saul hated David and chased him and pursued him.

Who brought the trials into David's life? The Lord brought the trials. And the Lord put the enemies to rest. It was the Lord's doing.

The Lord allowed some things in David's life. And this was for David's training. So you're looking at a period in his life where it's just important to see.

And David says this. So this isn't just me speculating that this is what happened. This is what David said. Psalm 119. It was good for me that I was afflicted. Why?

[19:38] What? Are you kidding, David? It was good for you to be afflicted? It was good for you to go through hardship? You're running for your life? People are trying to kill you? You're hiding in caves? No, it was good for me.

Why? Why was it good for me? That I might learn your statutes. God was training David in the affliction so that he would learn to apply God's word to all the circumstances of his life.

This is the training that you've been in. This is what God has been bringing you through to bring you to a place of renewed vision so that you'll see what God is up to.

You won't see it if you're wallowing in the past. You won't see it if you're just living in depression over the things of the past as if they have a stranglehold on you.

When you've been told by God's word that you are a new creation in Christ Jesus. That you've got everything that pertains to life and godliness. That you have the Holy Spirit of God living inside of you.

[20:44] That's a different story. All of that has been for my training. Every hardship. Every difficulty. And I can trace the hand of God all through my life.

When my parents divorced when I was five. And the pain that I felt as a child. And the difficulties that we went through.

And living in poverty. And being abused. And all of these kinds of things. As I look back. And I think of all of those things. And I can look at those things with confidence. Because there is a sovereign God.

And he was using all those things. To train my heart. To love him. And pursue him. David said I went through those things so they might teach me.

Got to pay attention to the clock. We got to be out here by noon. Right? Which means I got to stop in just a little bit. Alright. Psalm 18. David says. The Lord is my rock.

[21:45] And he's my fortress. He's my deliverer. My God is my rock. In whom I take refuge. Has he been taking refuge? Has he been hiding out in these strongholds?

I mean all these difficult times. He's on the run. Enemies chasing him. He's going to die. He's threatened with his life. What's his conclusion? That cave.

That fortress. Was the Lord. The Lord is my rock. He's my fortress. He's my deliverer. My God is my rock. In whom I take refuge.

My shield. And the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold. I called to the Lord. Who is worthy of praise. And I have been saved from my enemies.

All the enemies. Put the rest around. It was not his doing. It was the Lord's doing. The crisis. Was the Lord's. And the victories were the Lord's.

[22:42] And David's recognizing. Looking at the past. He's looking at all of the circumstances of his life. To see what God is planting in his heart.

All of it. That God's doing in my heart. Right now. Needs to be evaluated. In the things that God has already done. Right? Psalm 144.

He says it again. Blessed be the Lord. My rock. Who trains my hands for war. And my fingers for battle. He is my steadfast love. And my fortress.

My stronghold. And my deliverer. My shield. And he. In whom I take refuge. Who subdues. Peoples. Under me. It's God who won those victories.

It's God who did those things. And so he concludes. I will sing to you a new song. Oh God. Upon a ten string harp. I will play to you. Who gives victory to kings.

[23:38] Who rescues. David. His servant. From the cruel sword. All of these songs. That he's singing. Are about the past. Where he could have been wallowing. In all this.

Depression. And agony. Over things. He's been through. And oh. Woe is me. You don't know what I've been through. Yes. God does know what you've been through. And he's using all of those things.

To shape you. And train you. So that your heart. Will be pliable. In his hands. Isn't that good? Man. That gives you confidence. You can look back at anything. In your past. And say. As bad as that was. God's using that. Now.

Do sinful people. Get credit. For doing God's will. No. They don't get credit. For doing God's will. But. God. Is working. In spite of our sinfulness. Aren't you glad? And he can take what.

[24:35] Just like Joseph said. What you meant for evil. God can use it for good. God. Because he's sovereign.

Boy. Aren't you glad he's sovereign. We. Brandy and I got to go. To a 75th anniversary. And I'm just telling you. What good it was. For our soul. I'm just. I'm just telling you.

You got to understand. This church. That we were part of. I was lost. You know. You know my testimony. I was. I was lost. Family. Wrecked. Mom. Married eight times.

I was in 14 different schools. I dropped out of high school. God rescued me. Man. I know. He rescued me. I was a disaster. You know me now. And you think I'm a disaster.

You didn't know me then. But. I'm just telling you. But. But. Boy. He rescued me. And. And he. He. He brought me to some people. That really started discipling me. And pouring God's word into me.

[25:32] Getting me to memorize scripture. And study the Bible. I was growing. Man. I was. I was changed. And I was growing. And then I meet this.

Pretty girl. And. And I decide. Wherever she's at. That's where I'm going to church. You know what I'm saying. Outreach program was amazing. No. I'm just kidding.

And so I met Brandy Anderson. And I said. I don't know. I'm going to. I'm going to go to church with her. And so. Started going to church. Little did I know. What kind of church I was getting into.

This church. Not a perfect church. No church is perfect. We understand that. But. This church had some amazing things. They were doing. God. Was doing some amazing things.

In this church. To the point. That. On a Tuesday night. On a given Tuesday night. Just imagine this. Tuesday night. They had to provide a meal.

[26:29] For all of those teams. That were going out. To preach the gospel. Because there were. Let me get this right.

There were 70 some teams. Teams of three. At a minimum. Going out. On Tuesday nights. Following up on guests.

That came that Sunday. To go preach the gospel to them. And if nobody was home. I went. I started going. I mean. These teams were still going. When I got there. And I came to this church.

And. And a little. Lady. She was the. She was the one. That was. Taking us out on this team. And she was just. She was just sharing the gospel. With somebody.

And. And we were getting to see her do it. And learn. As she was doing it. We're. We're getting to see it. In. In action. So I'm memorizing. Verses of scripture. And. How to proclaim the gospel.

[27:23] And this was discipleship. And I'm. I'm seeing this lady. And. And Jeannie Hoover. Was her name. Sweet little lady. If you saw her on the streets.

She's just a proper little lady. And. And we would go into some rough. Neighborhoods at times. And she would just. With confidence. Just knock on that door. And some big tattooed.

Covered guy. Would come to the door. With no shirt on. Or whatever. And. She didn't care. And that little lady. Would just. She would just. How you doing?

We're from Cameron Baptist Church. And. Man. We. You. Your. Your name was given to us. Or. Or something. And. And. You came. And visited. Or whatever it was. And we just. We just.

Want to ask. Get to know you. And ask you a few questions. And. And see what God's doing in your life. Can I ask you a question? Yeah. Well sure. If you were to die today. Do you know. For sure.

[28:16] That you would go to heaven. And this would begin a conversation. And all of a sudden. Jeannie Hoover. I sat there in awe. As this. Tattoo covered guy. Or. This mean looking.

Person. Would just melt. As the gospel was preached. I saw people transformed.

And I'd see the angry countenance. That started at the door. All of a sudden melt. Into this teddy bear. Like. Thing. And I'm just like. Oh my goodness. I just watched somebody get saved.

That will affect you. Hundreds.

150 people going out on a Tuesday night. To preach the gospel. Wow. They were baptizing. Mind you. In our.

[29:16] My former church here. We were baptizing like. 40. A year. There were. Some years. They were baptizing.

350. A year. And on one Sunday morning. They baptized. On one particular Sunday morning. 115 people. The morning service.

Went to 3 o'clock that afternoon. And it was all. Baptism. It did my soul.

So much good. To go back. And be reminded. Of how God has been.

Training us. Good. The bad. The victories. The defeats. All of those things. To bring us to right here. It just blows your mind.

[30:18] And because. Jeannie Hoover. Taught me to share the gospel. I could. Go. And. Be a part of a little country church. In North Carolina.

And watch God just. Explode that thing. Into. Growth. And life. And. And plant another church. And get to see God do stuff.

And we can go overseas. And. And get to preach the gospel. In. China. And in Morocco. And in. And in. Let's see. In India.

And in. And in. And in. All these other places. All because. Jeannie Hoover. Taught me to share the gospel. This little lady in the church. Who was just faithful.

A faithful part of a church. That had a vision. For what God wanted them to be. And they said. I want to be that. I want to be that.

[31:13] I don't want to talk about that. I'm not going to live in those victories in the past. I'm not going to live in those defeats in the past. Because I could just as easily. Live in the victories of yesterday. As I can in the defeats of yesterday.

But those things. The good and the bad. God is using all those things. To bring me to now. What is God doing right now? What is he going to do in me? I'm in the house now.

I'm in the transition point. What is God going to do now? And this training. If I don't move on. I'm not going to get through this. Training leads to the testing.

Because this testing isn't just. I'm not talking about the testing. Like the trial part of the testing. I'm talking about. What it does in David's heart. As he goes through those trials.

Now and the training. That brings him. So that he can now evaluate. Things. That kind of testing. I'm testing my heart. In my worship now.

[32:12] And in my service to God. This is what's going on with David. David is now. Looking at what's going on in the house. I'm in the house. And as he says.

To Nathan. I dwell in a house of cedar. But the ark of God. Dwells in a tent. Now he's able to see. With some discernment.

And look at the circumstances. And he's testing. What he sees. Now keep in mind. Just a few verses before. He was dancing. Because of the ark of God.

Right? He was worshipping. He was celebrating. The ark of God. Is coming to the city. Man this is great. So much so. That he's running around. In his underwear. Or whatever he's doing. And Mike is going.

You're out of your mind. You crazy fool. And that's the James interpretation. Okay. Go back and read it. But he's in the ephod. And he's dancing around. And it's just unseemly to her.

[33:08] And he's like. I'm going to be more unseemly than this. I'm going to be worshipping the king. And I'm going to be excited about it. I'm

going to be. I'm going to be overjoyed. At the things that God's doing. Right? So he's pumped. I mean. That's. That ought to be the description of our worship. Shouldn't it? Can I get an amen? Amen. I mean. I actually believe it's a sin.

For us to be bored in worship. I think it's a sin. It's a sin. It's a sin on the part of the preacher. For being boring. Amen. And you're looking at me like.

Sometimes you're boring, Dave. Hey. I'm trying not to be. Okay. Sometimes. Our heart's not engaged. With the message. You know. And we're just. Letting our mind wander all over the place. Thinking about lunch. And oh. I got to get back. And cut the grass. Oh. I wonder what I'm going to eat today. And your mind's just wandering all over the place. When really. These are those moments. Where God's wanting us to engage with him.

[34:05] Together. Every time we come to worship. I ought to have in mind. That today. I'm going to encounter God. Not that he's not always with me.

And not that it's the. Two or three gathered. Thing where. You know. That's church discipline. But. But the reality is. We are a temple of the living God together. That's what.

That's what Paul said. First Corinthians. Not only am I one individually. Where the Holy Spirit of God dwells in me. But he told the church at Corinth. We are a temple. Meaning the Holy Spirit's at work. And us when we're together. And when we're working together. Serving together in some ways.

Testing.

Testing. I dwell in a house of cedar. And cedar is like the gold standard of building materials. Okay. This is. This is gifted to him. First Samuel 10.

[35:01] David was becoming greater and greater. For the Lord God of hosts was with him. And Hiram the king of Tyre. Sent messengers to David. And cedar trees. Also carpenters.

And masons. Who built David. A house. Gold standard in building materials. Gifted to David. Because the king of Tyre.

Sees David's victory. And is giving him this stuff. And he's. He's. He's. Man. You. You've won some victory. I'm gonna. I don't want you killing me. Hey. Brother. Here's some stuff. So that we'll be at peace.

And. And David recognizes. This is God's doing. God gifted him with these things. Now it's not wrong for David to not enjoy these things. This is great. He's.

He's in a brand new house. A maid of cedar. Skilled craftsmen. And. And. And. Workers are coming from foreign places to build this thing. And it's gonna be elaborate.

[35:58] That's gonna be beautiful. And. And he's sitting in his house. This is transition to a place of peace. He was in a cave. I was in the fields. David said. You know where I come from.

I was tending sheep. I smelled like sheep. Now I'm in a palace. Blessing from God.

And. What does he do? He starts testing now. Why does God give me blessing in my life?

So that I'll be able to evaluate some things. Now I can. Take the blessing from God. And instead of it just being about me. Like it was for Saul. Because if you remember. When Saul started winning victories.

What did he do? And he went to the city. And built a monument to himself. Right? And the victories became all about him. And now he's enjoying all the goods.

[37:02] And all the stuff. And all the glory of it. And all the victories that God was giving him. Were all now about him. But for David. This is not the condition of his heart. See this is a heart that's ready to receive vision from God.

This is a heart that's ready to be used by God. One that's looking at the past. And the sovereignty of God. And all the failures. And the victories. And then looking at the present. Blessings of God. And those becoming the tools. To evaluate my heart. How's my worship. Of God. Let me look at the stuff that God's blessed me with.

Let me look at the family that I have. Let me look at the stuff. The car that I'm driving. The things that I'm living in. The good things that I have. The clothes that I'm wearing. Everything that I have. A blessing from God.

That should cause me to say. How am I worshiping. The God. Who blessed me. What does he look at?

[38:02] The temple. The ark. And it's. Tent. And the contrast that he gives. Is the cedar. Beauty.

Beauty. I mean. Just radiant colors. And beauty of that wood. When it's. When it's. Done right. It's just. It's just gorgeous. It's got thermal properties.

To insulate. It's got natural insect repellent. In it. That's why it's around the windows. Of your house. Still. You put PVC around your windows. I'm telling you.

In just like five years. It's going to be disintegrating. Oh. It lasts forever. They're lying to you. And cedar's not going to last forever. But I'm telling you what. It'll last longer than this.

Plastic stuff that we're putting on our house. And even in that day. It was recognized for what it was. This is gold standard. And where's God's ark? It's in a tent.

[38:58] I was just celebrating about the tent. And I really couldn't see it. But all of a sudden. Now in light of God's blessing. I can evaluate my worship. And say you know. I was worshiping. I was worshiping rightly. Nothing wrong with my worship.

But my worship should be getting deeper and deeper. My obedience should be getting deeper and deeper. I should be farther along than I am. In my spiritual walk. I should be deeper in my walk with Christ.

He's blessing me. To draw me in closer and closer. Now I can look at my worship. And say. Where is my worship at of God? Where is my sacrifice? Where is the giving of my time.

And my talents. And my treasures to God. This is what drives David to be able to say. No I can't give him oxen that cost me. How can I give that to the Lord. Which cost me nothing.

Not worship. I can evaluate the blessings of God now. Rightly. And it helps me to see the vision of God. What is God doing in my life? How is he planting a vision in my heart right now?

[39:59] Well. If I'm looking at God's sovereignty in the past. With both the defeats and the victories. And now I'm looking at the blessings of God right now. All of a sudden. It's bringing clarity. To the things that God's calling me to do.

And I look at the worship. And he's looking at the tent. And the tent. I mean. It's been adequate. But you've got to realize. At this point in history. You know how old that tent is? It's like 600 years old. At this point in history. It has been uprooted. It has been in captivity by enemies. It has been mangled. Thrown around. It has been mishandled.

They've got meticulous rules about how to care for it. The priests are supposed to do that. They have probably kept it up really well. But it is 600 years old. Dusty.

Probably not bright. And he's looking at his house. And he's looking at all the time he's spending on that.

[41:07] And he's going, man. You know what? God's blessed me with so much. I'll be embarrassed at the judgment seat.

I mean. You see that? I'm going to stand at the judgment seat. And I'm going to be embarrassed. David says, no.

I have a vision for God. And I'm going to be that. I'm going to do that. And this is what he does. So let me rush through this. I've got like five minutes. Or am I supposed to stop at 20 after?

I can't remember. So just bear with me. Okay. All right. I'm going to skip ahead. I'm skipping.

I'm skipping. Blah, blah, blah. Why has God blessed you? 2 Corinthians 9. And God is able to make all grace abound to you so that having all sufficiency. God is able to make all grace abound to you.

[42:20] He's blessing you. He's doing things in your life. Making grace abound. And in this context, it's their financial giving actually. Right? And he's making grace abound to you in all ways, every way.

Why? So that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. Remember, I'm blessing you so that you'll be a blessing. I'm pouring into you so that you'll have a vision to do great things.

You're going to actually serve me in great ways. I'm blessing you so that you'll do that. And you're saying, well, I'm not blessed. You don't know my life. I've had such a hard time.

I've had such difficulties. Yeah. Training. Is that what you're talking about? Yeah. Training. So that now, in a moment, you're saying, well, you don't know.

It's been so bad. I'm just. And Brandy and I were talking about this yesterday. Like, we do this. We keep up. She and I are going back and forth with this at times. It's like, man, we've been through this and this.

[43:21] You're almost waiting for the next shoe to drop. Like, one of our other kids is going to have cancer or something. Or what's going to be next? And then we have to remind ourselves, no. It's really good right now.

I mean, yeah, we've been through some stuff. God's been training. He's been doing all kinds of stuff. But you know what? Right now, in this moment, it's good. And God's bringing blessings in this very moment that I need to be aware of and I need to look at. And those blessings that I'm blinded from because I keep holding on to past stuff. The blessings that are actually here right now. God's going to use his tools for me to evaluate and say, you know what? I'm going to serve him more.

I'm going to follow him deeper. I'm going to worship him greater. I'm going to sacrifice in every way that I can to serve the King of Kings because he is worthy of my praise.

[44:23] He's worthy. Psalm 77, David said, I will remember the deeds of the Lord. Yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

I will ponder all of the all of your works and meditate on your mighty deeds. This is the secret heart. It's ready to receive. A.W. Tozer said it really well.

He said it's not. Our focus should not just be on getting answers from God. Our focus should be on being the kind of people that God would give answers to.

Our heart has to be at a place before the Lord. He'll get us there.

He'll get you there. Where I can look at those things in the past. And those things have been training me to pour my heart out before the Lord.

[45:18] And then in the blessings now I can evaluate and let it drive me to more and more. And then the resulting burden of my heart.

What do I do with it? I take it to the Lord. This is not David in a Disney princess moment following his heart.

Right? This is not just David followed his heart. Oh, look at his heart. He's got such a good heart. Let's let's have good hearts. No. David had a burden in his heart.

In result of him looking at the past and the blessings of the present. And something's in his heart now. And what does he do with that thing in his heart? He just runs off and follows it.

You know. I'm going to follow God's vision for my heart. And I'm going to do something really awesome for God. And it's going to be really cool and really novel and really sweet. And really. You know. We're going to start a unicorn church.

[46:16] You know. And. We're going to be a hippie commune. Whatever. Whatever. And we're going to come up with great, brilliant, new ideas. And all this stuff.

No. What does it say? And he went to Nathan the prophet. Why is he going to Nathan the prophet? That's where he goes every time there's a crisis.

Every time there's a vision. David goes to God with it. And just like he has over and over again.

The implication is that he's inquiring of the Lord just as he has. The priest. In like fashion. It doesn't say in this text. But it's the pattern every time he's gone to the priest.

That they go to the Urim and the Thummim. They're looking to the means of God to speak. And confirming something that's in David's heart. It's not just what's in his heart.

[47:15] It's what's in his heart being taken to the word of God. So that God will confirm the vision of David's heart. And then what happened. And in that very night. Nathan the prophet hears the word of the Lord.

Go to David and tell him. Thus says the Lord. He gets confirmation about the vision of his heart. And direction for the vision of his heart. By taking the vision to God.

You've got visions in your heart. You've got burdens. As you look at the things of the past. And the things that God's done. And the victories that have been fought and won. Or lost even at times.

That you've learned from. And now you've got blessings in your life. That you need to be evaluating and looking at. So that you can see. What is the burden of my heart? Why has God brought me into a church plant?

Why in the world has he assembled us together? Why has he brought my family together? Or why has he removed some from my family? Right? And he's got me right here right now.

[48:19] In this condition. Because he's got a vision that he's planting in my heart. I've been hurt.

Guess what? Maybe the vision is for you to be a healer. Right? I was lost. Guess what? Maybe the vision.

Maybe for you to be the light. Preach the gospel. I've been wounded. Yeah. That's awesome. Training. He's got you right here right now.

To plant a vision in your heart. That you need to take to the Lord. And say Lord. Is this the direction? Does your word confirm that? Do the authorities in my life.

Is there consensus about this? I'm trying to discern your will. I want to know the burden in my heart.

If that matches what your word is saying. And as I'm praying through these things.

[49:19] And as I'm seeking you in the word. And through prayer. Through the authorities in my life. Through wisdom in a multitude of counselors. And coming together as a community of believers. Is this what you're doing? Because if this is what you're doing.

I will go. Go and do what's in your heart. Yes. What's in your heart. That's lined up with God's will. That's in tune with the heart of God. Do it. Do it.