



Leadership Training for Leaders Inside and Outside the Church

“Leadership is the art and science of inspiring others to reach their full potential in the pursuit of a common vision”

Dr. James Bultman



Today's Scripture References

Exodus 3&4

Numbers 20

Deut 1&2

Nehemiah 1-6

Acts 9-11

Dear Sir, The memory of our training event is still fresh. It will take a long time to remove it from my mind. To start with, the Leadership training conference we had is the best thing that has ever happen to us. You have created a serious and indelible mark in the heart of leaders in Nigeria. Up to the time I am writing this letter they have not allowed me to rest with their phone calls. We love you. Amen.

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The TCL E-Leadership Resource When People Wonder About The Vision

Are you sick of hearing about vision? Wonder if the thing is just a buzz word that has no Biblical support and is only for the 21st century leader who needs a contemporary term to use that makes him or her seem up to date in their thinking and planning? Or are you just having a hard time getting your vision embraced and moving from where it has been parked for years? Actually I've read so much about vision I really don't want to write about it. However I trust that as I write I might give you a new idea.

Today I will assume most of you know the basics about vision so I will get to today's focus which is about "Why does it sometimes take so long for vision to spread." Today's Biblical vision references are:

1. The Promise Land Vision
2. Jerusalem Walls Vision
3. The Gentile Gospel Vision

These visions represent three of the most significant visions that still have worldwide impact today. It is really not that hard for you to study these stories and apply them to your life. If you study Israel's exit from Egypt, Nehemiah's work in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and also study how God revealed to the early church that the Gospel was also for the Gentiles, then we learn some facts about big vision. Some of them are:

1. Bad behavior slows big vision down to a halt.
2. Some big vision takes time but will get done right before your eyes.
3. Some of God's vision spreads slow, but it always spreads, and keeps spreading.

Let's assume for a moment that the vision you find yourself in is a godly vision. Look at the evidence around you to determine what it is that is slowing things down. Do you see some bad behavior in yourself or others that is slowing things down? For now let's assume you don't readily see any significant behavior issues. Maybe things are getting done, howbeit so slow that it is quenching the Spirit's fire in you.

Might we all admit that we would all love a vision like rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem?

The vision was big and exciting; lots of people worked alongside of each other, and everyone protected and looked out for each other. The best thing about it was that it got done for everyone to see and take some godly pride in. It must have been very satisfying.

It might be like building a new church building, getting a new ministry up and running or starting a new division in your company. However there is a downside. When the short term vision is accomplished and the adrenaline has subsided what motivates us to the next vision? Can the gospel to the Gentile vision take us all to the next level? It should but can we as humans stay motivated to a cause that never ends?

Here is where a leader should pause and think about the people they are leading and ask themselves this question. "What short term vision will help those I lead reach their full potential?" If you really believe God called you to be a leader, then look at your followers to find what God has in store for you next. When followers grow, then leaders grow. A leader cannot grow unless his or her followers grow. The key to a leader's growth is in the needs of the followers. Nehemiah's vision grew out of the protection needed and provided by the walls of Jerusalem. Your vision could come from a spiritual or a practical need. One way to determine how to shape your next vision is to ask them about their needs and what they are passionate about. Listen closely and then ask other godly leaders to help you shape what you hear into a vision that can be embraced.

Short term vision is found in the practical needs of your people. Look into the people you lead and you will find a vision from God.

Then you won't wonder about it anymore.

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