

2020 Vision Part 7
Still Here?
02/23/2020

- How many of you have any issues?
- We all have some issues
- Does anyone have any parts of your life that you'd like to be different?
- For something to change something has to end
- Or not

John 6:66-67 (MSG) After this a lot of his disciples left. They no longer wanted to be associated with him. Then Jesus gave the Twelve their chance: "Do you also want to leave?"

John 6:68-69 (MSG) Peter replied, "Master, to whom would we go? You have the words of real life, eternal life. We've already committed ourselves, confident that you are the Holy One of God."

Col. 4:1-4 (ESV) Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Circumstances that make us want to leave and how to counter them:

1st) **UNFAIR** treatment.

Col. 4:1 (ESV) Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Col. 3:12-14 (NIV) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

- Those who have been forgiven much forgive others much
- The broken are masters at mending
- Life is unfair

3 Fair Questions:

A) Am I **GENUINE**?

Matt. 23:25 (ESV) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

B) Am I **PROUD**?

Mark 12:38-39 (ESV) And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts,

C) Am I **APPROACHABLE** ?

Matt. 23:7 (NIV) they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others.

Romans 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2nd) **UNEXPRESSED** thanksgiving.

Col. 4:2 (ESV) Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

- God's sovereignty and prayer

Helpful Bible Study Tips:

I – *Ps. 119:36 (ESV) Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain*

- My heart is bent in the wrong direction, away from what gives life.
- What do I have planned for today?
- What am I going to do for that gym floor?
- What's happening on my social media advertising campaign?
- How's online church coming along?
- Every day I need to be peeled away from my pathetic preoccupation with self
- Thankfully, God loves to de-magnetize our hearts from what is worthless, and re-magnetize them toward what is priceless, all for the sake of our joy.

Q – *Psalm 119:18 (ESV) Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law*

- The Holy Spirit inspired its words.
- Texts will often refuse to reveal their treasures till you open them with the key of prayer

U – *Psalm 86:11 (ESV) Unite my heart to fear your name*

- It's almost like Satan's finger is pressing down on the cover

S – *Psalm 90:14(ESV) Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love*

- The Counter to unexpressed thanksgiving - Know that thankfulness is God's will you your life

1 Thess. 5:18(NIV) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

3rd) UNOPENED doors.

Col. 4:3 (ESV) At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word,

- We all have personal limitations

3 Thoughts on limits:

A) We all have AREAS of weakness.

Romans 3:23 (NIV) For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

B) God is fully AWARE of your weakness.

Psalms 103:14 (NIV) for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

C) We have to ATTACK our weak areas.

James 1:15 (NIV) Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

- Whatever you don't conquer will eventually conquer you
- The Counter for unopened doors - Know that Jesus opens doors at just the right time

Rev. 3:7 (CEV) I am the one who is holy and true, and I have the keys that belonged to David. When I open a door, no one can close it. And when I close a door, no one can open it. Listen to what I say.

4th) UNSOLVED mysteries.

Col. 4:3b (ESV) to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison

- What is the mystery?
- Christ in you the hope of glory
- The Gospel is for everyone

Acts 20:24 (ESV) But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Romans 5:8 (NIV) "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

- We are great sinners and we have a great savior
- The Counter for unsolved mysteries - Understand the mystery of the Gospel

Heb. 13:5(NIV) "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."