

THE ANATOMY OF A CHRISTIAN STEWARD

IV. Eyes That See

*"...your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."
Acts 2:17*

When Disney World was completed and the ribbon cutting was taking place, an executive and friend of Walt Disney began thinking of the vision that Walt had had years before his death. He turned to Mrs. Disney and said, "It's a shame Walt couldn't have seen this!" Mrs. Disney replied, "He did! That's why we're here today!"

The vision had become a reality. Think of it. Visions become a reality when there is leadership and sacrifice.

Our church has vision. It is true that, "our young men have visions and our old men dream dreams," (Acts 2:17) but all of us share the vision of what we could accomplish and what we will accomplish for His glory.

For our vision to become a reality however it must be:

A Common Vision – We must all share the vision of what God would have us do. If each has a different vision we shall be fragmented. It will cripple rather than give wings. We the church are a body in which all parts work together in unity. This is happening as we follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit, of our Pastor and staff, and of our leadership team.

A Consecrated Vision – Our vision must be God's plan for us not just our human desires. We firmly believe that God has led us individually, as committees and as a church. It has been and is being bathed in prayer. His leadership is evident everywhere we look.

Remember where God guides God provides! He would not have placed the vision in our minds if He did not plan to provide the means – and you are part of His plan.

A Challenging Vision – Our church never has had small dreams. Our dreams will always be great because they are given to us by a great God. Our members have always responded as God led. Sacrifices are required if we are to accomplish God's will for our church.

When we look at plans for the future of our church we can see all of this becoming a reality. We see a facility teeming with activity for God's glory. We

see multitudes being reached for the kingdom. We see the miracle of God's grace.

Wait a minute – you don't have this vision? You can't see it?

I'm reminded of the psychiatrist's secretary who told the doctor, "There's a man in the waiting room who claims to be invisible! The psychiatrist replied: "Tell him we can't see him today."

Perhaps you don't see today what the rest of us see, but you can. Remember the account in II Kings 6:16ff. Elisha's servant looked about and saw the horses and chariots of the enemy. He thought the battle was impossible. Elisha then says "Fear not" and he prayed, "Lord open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened his eyes and he saw the horses and chariots of fire of the Lord surrounding them. Victory was theirs.

There are times when our vision gets dimmed. Sometimes it is blurred:

◆ Blurred by Tradition

Someone has said the seven last words of a church are, "We Never Did It That Way Before."

◆ Dimmed by Selfishness

I know a deacon who violently opposed the building program of his church. He knew the need and recognized the consequence of not building. He didn't want to give himself nor his wealth so he opposed the program.

◆ Blinded by Sin

Some have Spiritual Myopia. They can only see the immediate situation and are unable or refuse to see the long-range impact of God's plan for the church. Long-term possibilities for service and ministry are lost.

These can't see the youth of our church being nurtured and developed into examples of Christian leadership. They can't see the unreached being won to Christ and nurtured in our beloved church. They can't see the plans and possibilities God has before our church.

Think of the loss this involves. Consider the lives that will never be what God intended them to be because of the selfishness and near sightedness of some.

Pray that the Lord will open your eyes and enable you to catch the vision that He has for our church. He will answer that prayer and "show you great and mighty things beyond your imagination."

Someone asked Helen Keller, "What could be worse than having no sight?" She answered, "Having sight and no vision!"

*Lord, I have eyes to see. Please open my eyes
so that I can see your vision as if I were seeing through your eyes.*