

Vision Series Slide

Picture in your head a calendar showing the month of November. How many days in November?- 30

Ok now you have a choice to make. An extremely wealthy person has made you an offer.

You can have \$10k/day for every day in November....or you can have 1 cent on the November 1st, and then and then every day after the amount you have will double for thirty days- which one would you take?

Well- it all depends on your goals.

If your goal is to have immediate major impact on your bank account- you better take the 10 grand a day.

\$70k vs \$0.64 after the first week.

But if your goal is maximize those 30 days- well- you'll want to start by doubling the penny.

Because if you take the \$10k a day deal...by the end of 30 days you'd have \$300k.

But if you started by doubling the penny- you would have \$10,737,418.23 by the time you hit December 1st.

It would be extremely short-sighted and foolish to take the first deal knowing what's offered with the second deal wouldn't it?

...and yet...that's what most of us have done not only with Jesus, but his church.

We celebrate conversion to Jesus, but pay little attention to the call to live a life of sacrifice and overflow.

Conversion makes an initial splash- literally, with baptism- but the ongoing slog of following and obeying Jesus- frankly- is boring and costs too much. It feels like doubling a penny.

And most of us evaluate churches based on addition...not multiplication.

What I mean by that is we want to know if a church is adding to the number of people sitting in the seats on a Sunday. Or if the church is adding buildings and seating space that me and my family will get to use. or if the church is adding something to our lives...like useful sermons,,or just in general making me a happier person.

Which means- when Jesus or his church asks us to do something that seems like losing...or subtraction... we immediately think "Whoa, Wait a second...I'm here for the addition...not subtraction."

Imagine taking the penny deal instead of the 10k a day. In that first week that started with doubling a penny...would you be nervous? Full of regret?

It would feel like nothing was added to your life- while you watch your friend that took the other deal post on Instagram about the vacation they took, and the new car they plan to buy after the second week.

If you don't have the vision for multiplication...you'll just live in FOMO and REGRET.

But if you DO KNOW what multiplication can do...that first week doesn't phase you. You just keep letting everyday double. Non-anxious. Cool as a cucumber. You know by December it will be clear you made the right choice.

Now- on the other hand- imagine what its like on December 1st for those that take the 10 grand a day over the penny doubling deal.

Its weeping and gnashing of teeth.
Its the aching frustration of what could have been.

Title Slide- "Double the Penny: Why You Should Take a Small Step from Addition to Multiplication"- John 12:23-28; John 14:12

Today- I want give you a vision for Multiplication. In your life...and for our whole church.

And...I'm going to finish today with a simple question.
How will you double the penny?

John 12:23-24

23 Jesus replied to them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains by itself. But if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Hour has come- The alarm is ringing.
What he has prepared for, its now time.
He gives them the principle of multiplication- applying what he's about to do.

He explains the process of multiplication here.
Die...and a whole crop springs up...

Last Temptation of Jesus Christ- Guardian Angel

"Your father is the God of Mercy. Not punishment. He saw you and said Go down and save him. He's suffered enough.

Remember Abraham? He saved Abraham's son- Don't you think he'd save his own?

Let him live his life.

There won't be anymore pain. You've done enough."

Matthew 27:42-43

"He saved others, but he cannot save himself! He is the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God; let God rescue him now — if he takes pleasure in him! For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'

In the Scorsese movie- Jesus goes on to get married and enjoy his life. Until he finally sees that all along, the guardian angel that was "keeping him safe"- was just offering him temporary satisfaction- but costing him ... and the world... in the long run.

He realizes he took addition...and lost multiplication.

1 Corinthians 15:17

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

John 12:23-24

Thankfully, that's not what happened. Jesus didn't go for the short term addition to his life. He went for the multiplication.

He is the seed that fell into the ground- and on the cross- it looked like a loss, but now- 2000 years later- the crop is still coming up! People are still deciding to follow Jesus, knowing they are forgiven by God, welcomed into his family, and called to participate in his re-making the world!

John 12:25-26

25 The one who loves his life will lose it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me. Where I am, there my servant also will be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

He applies this principle of multiplication to his followers. You aren't just here to serve me...you follow me. You are right with me. You are going to do what I am doing.

"It's going to seem like you are missing out on life- but I'm telling you- wait til the end of the month!"

“Like I died to bring life- you are going to follow me in the same service. And Just like my Father raised me up- he’s going to do the same for you!”

John 12:25-26

27 “Now my soul is troubled. What should I say — Father, save me from this hour? But that is why I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.”

Again, he is deeply troubled...This is more than missing out on money for a couple of weeks. This is a painful, excruciating death...not just death...its the sin of the world on him.

When the deep fear of the cross tempted Jesus- He looked past the temporary pain and loss- to the completion of the mission.

Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.

And he heard his Father say- “You’ve seen my faithfulness in the past- I’m going to do what I said!

John 14:12-14

12 “Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the

Father. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Jesus not talking about us qualitative...but quantity. MORE PEOPLE reached through the church. IN MY NAME- the church represents Jesus...BODY OF CHRIST...and as we ask representing Jesus- He will do it.

PILLARS PRAY TO CULTIVATE. FULL OF GRIT. This is spiritual wealth tied to prayer.

John 20:21-22

21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you." 22 After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

We have a primary identity of being SENT...and he Gives us the Holy Spirit to be present with us as we go.

Vision

Raising up humble leaders with joy.

Unafraid. Overflowing. Sent.

1) For individuals- “I’m happy.” is Addition. “I’m giving myself away.” is Multiplication.

The late Rodney Stark, one of our generation’s most significant church historians, points out that at the end of the 1st century, when the last Apostle died, there was a grand total of 7530 believers (which is an oddly specific number, but that’s what he wrote). There are at least 200 churches in America that have more than that every single weekend! And even by the time we get to the end of the 2nd century (199 A.D.), the church father Origen said that the Christian community was still numerically insignificant even if “geographically broad.””

And yet, by the time we get to 312 A.D. nearly half of the entire Roman empire confessed Christ. Millions and millions of people. Rodney Stark asks, “How? How did that happen?” Especially when you consider that these early believers didn’t have any of the stuff we think today is necessary for church growth. No money; no buildings; no printing presses; no influential people in the Government.

Rodney Stark says it’s true they had none of those things, but the one thing they did have (that we often don’t) was the power of multiplication at work in them. Every Christian believed it was their duty to make disciples, and every church believed it was their responsibility to multiply.

So- lets talk about individually- once you have trusted Jesus- is there a pathway that you can think about for being a multiplying disciple? How do you start letting go of self-satisfaction- church just been a little addition to your happiness.. and being a seed that falls into the ground

Worshipper

Great Commandment- Center of your life. Everything you do comes from a heart of worship.

2 practices- Daily reading & prayer, Weekly Gathered worship with the church

PILLARS- Practice Spiritual Disciplines & Cultivate in the Worship Gathering

Family Member

2nd greatest command- Love your neighbor as yourself. The Scripture is very clear- that starts with your brother or sister in Christ. You can't lay your life down for people with whom you have no relationship.

A commitment to Jesus IS a commitment to his church. And you can't LOVE the universal church. It must be embodied and local.

John 21- If you love me, feed my sheep!

Practice: Get in a City Church Group-

Pillar- Cultivate in a community Group

Servant

- On the night before he died, Jesus took a water basin and a towel and wash his disciples' feet. And he said, "This is how I want you to live, too." An imitator of Jesus uses whatever power, position or privilege they have to serve.
- Two things I'm asking you to do:
- How are you using your gifts and talents in the Kingdom?
- Are you using your talents to building a dynasty (for yourself) leaving a Kingdom legacy (for others)?
- Second- How are you serving your brothers and sisters in the church? Everybody, we should have a ministry job in the church.
- Often, the church is like an SEC football game- 22 guys in desperate need of rest putting on a show for=122K in desperate need of exercise.

Practice- serve the church. (Not to mention how much relationship can be deepened by serving.) When we first planted the church- 100% of the people had a job at a Sunday gathering. Everybody a sense of responsibility.

Pillar: Cultivate in the Worship Gathering.

Steward

- A disciple realizes that anything he or she has, ultimately belongs to God and is given to us by him for a purpose. A steward is different from an owner. An owner owns what they have. A steward takes care of something someone else owns, on their behalf.
- God is asking you 2 questions- two things he holds you responsible for.
- What did you do with my Son?
- What did you do with my stuff?
- You might think you're ready for the 1st; are you ready for the 2nd?
- The first action step of being a steward is sacrificial giving. We ask for you to tithe.
- Stewardship doesn't stop there, of course. Tithing is the beginning of stewardship, but not the end, because at the judgment, we're not going to give an account for 10% of what he gave us, but all of it. But tithing is still a good first step in living out this identity.

Pillar: Be sacrificially and financially generous.

Witness

- The last identity Jesus bestowed on his disciples— what he wanted to leave them thinking about— was ‘witness.’ Think of all the labels Jesus could have given them there! He could have said, “And you will be... Bible study-ers.” Or, “You will be my pray-ers. My worship song singers. My justice advocates.” He could have said any of those things and it would have been true. But what he said was, “You will be my witnesses.”
- That means that whatever else we do in life, our primary role is to witness to Jesus. We might do that as a doctor, lawyer, teacher, architect, stay-at-home mom, financial adviser or Starbucks barista.
- Jesus said his main mission on earth was to “seek and save the lost.” If we are his followers, it will be ours, too--both locally and globally.

Locally- Who are you praying for, sharing with. If you don’t keep it top of mind- it will fade.

Globally-Do you have a church planter you are praying for? A mission trip you are saving up for?

Pillar- Share the gospel and Make Disciples

Who are you spending time that his helping you to do this- or that you are helping them to do it?

Think about your relationships. Think about what you spend your time doing. Do you have any relationships of people that are challenging you, pressing you, to become this kind of disciple of Jesus- or are most of your

relationships about adding temporary happiness to your life.

The kind of happiness that Satan promised Jesus he would have if he just came down from the cross.

The kind of happiness that doesn't last- and that pales in comparison to the joy of multiplication.

I'm just asking you today- not to do it all in one step. But start by asking - "How do i double the penny?"

2) For our church- "We're happy." is Addition. "We'll give ourselves away." is Multiplication.

Its not that we have to choose between growing the attendance of our church and being out disciples,

Rather- if we take the long view of ministry, growing and sending out disciples will take priority.

and that is going to happen in planting churches.

WHY?

In fact, get this: Studies confirm that the average new church gains nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of its new members from the ranks of people who are not attending any worshiping body;

while churches over 10 to 15 years old gain 80-90% of their new members by transfer from other congregations.

- The average Baptist Church baptizes 3 people per 100 members; plants baptize 12 per 100. 4x!
- Plants create opportunities for young leaders to lead and develop them in a way not always possible in established churches.
- Everybody serves! Everybody in on the mission. No place to hide on a CP team!

What I'm saying is that church planting is a more effective way of reaching people than just growing a big megachurch. Do both if you can, but planting is your most effective play

SUMMIT COLLAB- 2009 1000 churches in a generation. We were number 2.

Now 15 years in there are nearly 100.

5 planted last year- 10 in the residency this upcoming year.

This YEAR- Leadership COHORT.
Gospel Shaped Leader- staff.

I could take 6 guys right now...

What step do you need to take

Fund a residency?

College students residency...summer project

Pate says 10-15 students right now..

Dylan and Cayla

Pray for DYLAN and CAYLA and Church planting.

John 12:24

God is calling you to shift from addition to multiplication.
He is calling our church to shift from addition to multiplication.