

Weekender Slide

City College Slide

Welcome College students

Vision 2025 Slide

I met my wife freshman year at MTSU.

Today- you can also meet my wife your freshmen year.
We will then have that in common for the rest of our lives.
We all met my wife our freshmen year.

Speaking of my wife.

Today is Vision Day

Before we look forward to this next year...

...I want to take you back- to where this church came from. Why we planted this church 14 years ago.

Then we'll get into the Scripture.

TELL THE STORY (6 minutes)

(Distracted- me with ministry

Hard Hearted- her towards me

Desperate- Me towards her, then her towards God

Confident- Her after Chai died- both of us to plant the church.)

We came back to plant

The vision for this church has always been

Multiply GOSPEL change. For broken people. On purpose.

What I want to show you today is NOT that we are moving on from that—> but God has us at a place where we can go at that vision with more focus and intensity than ever. and with a greater confidence.

And we're going have a lot fun- as were'e doing it.

Title Slide: "Help My Unbelief" Mark 9:14-32

All through the next month- I'm going to preach on points of this vision- who God has called us to be—> and what he has called us to do.

But we can't do any of that without faith. And faith needs a foundation of repentance. Repentance simply means wherever you have been moving away from God...or where you have been stuck...stubborn...selfish...complaining...self-centered...or unfaithful...that today- you make a move toward God. Today- regardless of what people think of you...you listen to God's call to change direction.

Your future...and how God will use you to accomplish HIS future...depends on it.

Moment of silence

Mark 9:14-16

14 When they came to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and scribes disputing with them. 15 When the whole crowd saw him, they were amazed and ran to greet him. 16 He asked them, "What are you arguing with them about?"

THEY= Peter James John and Jesus after Transfiguration

WRITE DOWN-

Distracted- this is the disciples.

Doing ministry without the why. Their focus goes and they end up arguing while Jesus is up the mountain.

Disputing (Hard-Hearted) SCRIBES

Always finding something wrong.

9:17-18

17 Someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you. He has a spirit that makes him unable to speak. 18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they couldn't."

Write Down

Desperate- this Father is absolutely at the end of his rope. No where left to turn. He's heard about Jesus and is taking a chance.

He's probably even more discouraged now that the people representing Jesus- his disciples- are unable to heal his son.

9:19

19 He replied to them, "You unbelieving generation, how long will I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him to me."

UNBELIEVING-

GENERATION- Brood of Vipers (There are 2 ways- the way of the serpent that doubts God and his goodness. And the way of Jesus- that trusts God and his goodness)

John 8:42-47

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and I am here. For I didn't come on my own, but he sent me. 43 Why don't you understand what I say? Because you cannot listen to my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Who among you can convict me of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? 47 The one who is from God listens to God's words. This is why you don't listen, because you are not from God."

Mark 9:19

Do you blame Jesus
Ever ask God "How Long?"
Ever think that Jesus is asking YOU How long?

20 So they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, it immediately threw the boy into convulsions. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. 21 "How long has this been happening to him?" Jesus asked his father

Now "How Long" is not one of frustration, but compassion
Understanding.
Can you hear Jesus say "How long has this been happening to you?"

"From childhood," he said. 22 "And many times it has thrown him into fire or water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

Now you can hear the desperation? He's heard Jesus frustration with unbelief. and he appeals to his compassion.

"Yo, i just heard you get onto those folk over there...and I'm clueless as to how this works....I just know I'm desperate."

23 Jesus said to him, " 'If you can?' Everything is possible for the one who believes."

What would you do if this was true. EVERYTHING is POSSIBLE for the one who believes.

24 Immediately the father of the boy cried out, "I do believe; help my unbelief! "

Again- desperation. He's completely unafraid.

"We think Christ is honored by what we think and feel. But Christ is honored by what we trust Him with." - John Andrew Bryant

25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you: Come out of him and never enter him again."

Write:

Determined (Confident)

CONFIDENT- Latin for WITH FIDELITY- With trust, loyalty-

26 Then it came out, shrieking and throwing him into terrible convulsions. The boy became like a corpse, so that many said, "He's dead." 27 But Jesus, taking him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up.

Now the Disputing face the Determined.

He's dead. Psalm 1-

Happy is the man who doesn't walk in the counsel of the wicked, stand in the path of sinners, or SIT in the seat of scoffers.

Scoffers dig their heels in. They are armchair quarterbacks who wait for something to go wrong.

Notice- who's left in the cold sulking.

Its not the determined. Jesus.

Its not the desperate. the father and his boy..

Its the disputing. The arguing. The cynical. The complaining. The ones who want their lives to be under their control. THE Hard Hearted.

Disputing- Same Energy. with Lazarus

John 11:36-37

36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Couldn't he who opened the blind man's eyes also have kept this man from dying?"

John 11:38-39

38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 "Remove the stone," Jesus said.

Deeply moved- Angry. Like a horse snorting. A bull ready to charge. Now watch LIFE OVERFLOW from his connection with the Father.

John 11:40-44

Martha, the dead man's sister, told him, "Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days."

40 Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. 42 I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me." 43 After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unwrap him and let him go."

Some of you have been missing the power and glory of God in your life because of your hard-heartedness. Towards Jesus. Towards the church.

Some of you God has been calling you a long time to trust him...and you keep finding reasons, excuses, to hold back. To not follow through with publicly proclaiming that he is your LORD and Savior.

And the Lord is calling you today to open your eyes and see what he's doing. And make a public repentance and proclamation that you trust him.

But you haven't been desperate enough. Today is the day.

You can stay in that disputing and hard-hearted state- or you can get desperate- which is the only path to determined confidence with the LORD- which is exactly what we need to pursue the steps of faith God is calling us to moving forward.

Mark 9:28-29

28 After he had gone into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out? "

29 And he told them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer."

Curious- he doesn't pray out loud. And the Scripture is replete with examples of Jesus doing this? What deal.

Back to the Its the distracted. They have lost their connection. They are doing ministry without the Spirit

"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."- A. W. Tozer

Revelation 2:2-5

2 I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them to be liars. 3 I know that you have persevered and endured hardships for the sake of my name, and you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Here's the thing. Whether you are desperate, Distracted, or Disputing- all of us need the same thing. The Gospel. The good news of what Christ accomplished in his life, death and resurrection. It humbles the Hard hearted. It uplifts and gives hope the desperate. And it refocuses the distracted on what is important.

The Gospel changes everyone. and Everything.

And its exactly what the distracted disciples didn't get.

Mark 9:30-32

30 Then they left that place and made their way through Galilee, but he did not want anyone to know it. 31 For he was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after he is killed, he

will rise three days later.” 32 But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask him.

Explain Gospel.

But eventually- after Jesus resurrected. The disciples finally got it. Except one. Judas. who- for security, comfort, power and money- betrayed Jesus. And he got exactly what he wanted. Then he killed himself.

Now- I want you to pay attention to what Peter preaches as God starts the church in the book of Acts.

Holy Spirit- Tongues of fire. All these Jews gathered from all these different nations. Everyone hears the disciples speaking the gospel in their own language.

And even there- with all of that Holy Spirit work going on- there are hard-hearted disputers. People say- “These guys are drunk!” But Peter unfazed- finishes his sermon.

Acts 2:36

36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

Strange- most of these people were NOT the same people that were at Jesus’ crucifixion.

And yet- You crucified him.

The truth is- we all crucified Jesus.

LADY MACBETH- Out OUT Spot!

On a scale of 1-10- how certain are you that if you died today- that you would be forgiven of your sin- and you’d be resurrected to live forever- the way God intended you to live?

1 John 5:13

I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

START PAD

So what should you do about it?

Acts 2:37

37 When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what should we do? ”

Acts 2:38-41

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” 40 With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, “Be saved from this corrupt generation!” 41 So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

Repent. And be baptized. Explain baptism.
Don't worry about clothes. Don't worry about family- we'll take video and pics.

So what is the vision for 2025- Well- I'll tease this out over the next month-

Raising up humble leaders with joy. Unafraid. Overflowing. Sent.

UNAFRAID.

2 ways to be Unafraid.

Desperate or Confident.

Out of options...or fully trusting. Completely dependent on Jesus no matter what comes.

OVERFLOWING.

When you know how much you are loved and forgiven by Jesus- that love, forgiveness and generosity will come out of you towards others. You'll go to the desperate. you'll confront the disputing. you'll encourage the distracted. and you'll walk with confidence- sure that you can never run out of the love you give away.

SENT.

Deep purpose that comes from the upward call of Christ to GO and make disciples

Can you imagine what our church would be in this community? The deep connection to God and others we'd have as a family? The difference we would be to generations as we let go of our distracted and disputing ways- and walk with desperation toward Jesus and let him make us confident?

Parents- can you imagine together with this church committing yourselves to raising your kids up to be humble leaders WITH JOY. Unafraid. Overflowing. and SENT in to the world with deep conviction and purpose. LOVING AND FORGIVING as they Go.

College students- can you imagine God using you in 2 years or 4 years to be a part of a church planting team- leveraging whatever your vocation is to move to a city and start a church like City Church there?

Can you imagine together planting 20 churches in the next 20 years? That's what multiplication can do!

Acts 2:38-41

And I believe for many of you it comes down to the decision you are going to make right now.

OPEN THE ALTAR for repentance and prayer.
PRAYER COUNSELORS

BAPTISM COUNSELORS (after 2nd service)

Come and pray for someone or with someone.

Today- will you pray the prayer of the desperate. "Father, I believe. Help my unbelief"