

VISION SATURDAY

"It's Time To Advance" | 1.28.23

I. INTRODUCTION (Deuteronomy 1:7; Matthew 22:37-39)

- A. In January 2006, Jennifer and I were youth pastors in Raymond, WA and we had taken a large group of students down to Generation Unleashed at City Bible Church in Portland, OR for an annual youth conference.
- B. As the worship was opening on Thursday night, Jennifer, as we've been accustomed to took time to pray for each other at the start of the conference, opening our hearts to whatever God would have for us during this conference. These are special places where God visits his people.
- C. From the moment we started praying, God visited Jennifer and I powerfully. Doubled over, we wept for well over 45 minutes, through the entire worship service. It wasn't clearly in the moment exactly what God was doing, but as the lights came on, and we were drying our eyes, I had this burned deeply into my heart, *"Connecting with God and this generation."*
- D. It was a few weeks later that I was reading Dwayne Roberts book, *Onething*, that I learned about the first and second commandment. Although I'd been saved for 6 years at this time, and had surely heard the first and second commandment mentioned, this was the first time I realized that God had built His entire Kingdom, literally everything, on these two things;
1. **Matthew 22:37-39** *"Jesus said to them, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and the great commandment. And the second is like it; you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets (The entire Bible)."*
- E. Over the years of studying the Bible, I've been surprised to see this pattern of loving God first and others second continually appear again and again and again (**Gen 15:1; 1st Sam. 2:26; 1st Chron. 28:9-10; 2nd Chron. 35:3; Ps. 27:4; 37:6; 78:72; 92:12-15; Prov. 3:4; SOS 1:4; Matt. 5:1, 19; 6:33 10:1, 5, 27; 11:26-30; Lk. 2:52; Jn. 4:23-24; 10:38; Acts 1:11-13; 2:42-47; 6:10; Col. 1:9; 2nd Thess. 2:17; 1:st Tim. 4:16; Titus 1:1; Phil. 1:5; Heb. 5:1; 1st Jn. 5:1-5; Rev. 1:5**) (*I have 27 pages of just verses, these are only a few*).
1. **Song of Songs 1:4** *"Draw me away (with You)! And WE will run after you."*
 2. **Joel 2:17** *"Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar; let them say, spare Your people, O Lord, and do not give Your heritage to reproach...why should they say among the peoples, where is their God?"* We are to carry the people before God's presence (the Altar), and then carry God's presence before the people (the Porch).
- F. Jennifer and I see a Church that's equipping disciples who don't just survive in the pressures of life, but that thrive in the pressures of life, that don't go underwater when difficulty comes.
1. Jennifer and I see a Church who speaks prophetically to the hour that we live in, that works to equip people, not only for today, but also for tomorrow, not only for what's seen today, but for what's unseen tomorrow.
 2. Jennifer and I see a Church that values the presence of God, and the people of God. We see a Church that loves those who are apart of God's family, and those that are far from God.
- G. Our vision at Legacy Church is to *"Encounter Jesus AND the people of our culture."* Our desire as a local Church is to prioritize the first commandment into first place (loving God), and then see the second commandment (loving people) follow suit, right behind it.

- H. It's easy for God's family to do the first, and forget about the second, or to do the second and forget about the first (*Too conservative or too liberal; too withdrawn from culture, or too immersed in culture*). But, as God's family, we can't afford to lose either or, in their right priority (*Encountering Jesus AND the people of our culture*).
- I. Our mission at Legacy Church is, "*Building, Encountering, Living and Sharing.*" We desire to BUILD a resting place for God through good doctrine (*teaching*) and theology (*thoughts about God*). We desire to then ENCOUNTER Christ, through experiencing doctrine and theology (God Himself). We desire that this foundation we are encountering changes the way that we LIVE our lives. And we desire to SHARE both God's presence and our lives with those both in Christ, and those that are far from Christ.
1. Building—*Weekend services, Disciple classes*
 2. Encountering—*Corporate Prayer meeting/Spiritual practices*
 3. Living—*Legacy Groups*
 4. Sharing—*Serving inside and outside Legacy Church, citywide events, outreach*

II. WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2023?

1. Throughout our life as a Local Church, we've had numerous things happening on many nights of the week. At times this has made it difficult for the people of Legacy Church to be a part of what God is doing through the life of our body.
2. For this reason, we are reducing our weekly rhythm to three primary things;
 - a. Our Weekend Service (Saturday's 5P)
 1. We moved our service to Saturday night because we thought this would be the most feasible time for guests to join with us. We realized that the majority of our body would be able to adjust to whatever day and time we chose, therefore we tried to think about what would help us grow, and that was Saturday night.
 2. During our weekend gathering we will continue to preach through books of the Bible, topical series as well as special services with guest speakers.
 3. Our desire is that during this service we can both further equip disciples, and reach people that are far from God, we want to do both and, not either or.
 4. Our desire is to see people born again, water baptized, and join Legacy Church as contributing members of our family through our weekend gatherings.
 - b. Our Corporate Prayer Meeting (Tuesday 7P)
 1. Currently Tuesday night is our one, weekly corporate prayer meeting. Our desire is to see this become the most important gathering of the week for Legacy Church as we prioritize God's presence and express our great need and dependency upon Him.
 2. During this gathering we will have worship, waiting on God, and intercession for many things, including the lost being saved through Legacy Church.
 3. For those apart of Legacy Church, or looking to catch our heartbeat, I would encourage you to attend at least twice a month at the minimum (more if your able).

c. Our Legacy Group(s) (Thursday 6:30P | Milton)

1. As a local Church we desire to grow not only in our relationship with God, but also in our relationship with others. Legacy Groups serve the purpose of developing friendship with people outside of a corporate service, where we are able to talk about our lives, share about success and our challenges.
2. Currently we only have 1 Legacy Group happening, but our desire is to have 2, or 3 taking place throughout our region to serve others. We are in need of people willing to host and lead a Legacy Group to accommodate more people into community.
3. Last year we broke our Legacy Group's up to accommodate a teaching series, and we aren't planning to do that again this year. Our Legacy Group(s) will run in a schedule like this:
 - i. Winter/Spring | January—April
 - ii. Spring/Summer | May—July
 - iii. Fall/Winter | September—December

3. Alongside these three primary things, we have a handful of other things happening at Legacy Church;

a. Men's Discipleship Group

1. Currently this discipleship group meets once a month on the first Saturday of every month. We meet from 7A-8:15A as we work through a book together with the purpose of raising up more men to lead both within their homes, in the Church and among society.

b. Citywide Events

1. This year, Legacy Church will participate in our citywide serve day happening in July. We will also be participating in the Turkey Drive in November, and a Christmas outreach in December.
2. There is currently more opportunities in our city to be a part of, but this is what we are starting with.

c. Legacy Church Belong Course

1. We are excited to finally have our Legacy Church Belong Course happening. It will run a total of 3-4 times this year, starting next Sunday. The class will run for three weeks and will help people learn more about Legacy Church, who we are, and how they can be a part. We are believing God to have baptisms and add members at the conclusion of each of these classes.

d. Alpha Course

1. Coming up this February, we will be hosting our first ever Alpha Course. Since the start of Alpha in 1997 Alpha has had over 28 million people go through their course with around 10+ million becoming born again believers.
 2. Alpha helps Churches create non-threatening environments so that people can explore Christianity in a safe space, and we couldn't be more excited to host this.
 3. We will most likely do this on Tuesday nights, for around 8-10 weeks, setting up tables, having some food, table hosts, childcare.
 4. Our desire is that you would start thinking today about who you're going to invite to attend Alpha with you. This is a glorious opportunity to withdraw thousands of hours of prayer for the lost, believing that God is going to answer them.
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III. CONCLUSION

- A. In the fall, I sensed that God was desiring to reset Legacy Church! At the time we were resetting Legacy Kids, Men's Ministry, our service time and day, and within our building, as God provided nearly 2 years of rent free time in this beautiful space.
- B. But it was clear, there was a larger reset happening among us. Ministries don't find themselves in these situations without God's hand at work among them, and it's clear, God is leading us both in our present, and into our future, to ADVANCE.
- C. In the fall, as I was talking with Pastor Charlie about our upcoming conference, I had this phrase come into my heart, "It's time to break camp and advance." Little did I know that it was a Bible verse. We've aptly named our conference Advance, but beloved, this is a prophetic word that God is giving to Legacy Church; "It's time to break camp, and advance."
- D. It's time to advance into God's purposes for us, it's time to see His kingdom extended in and through Legacy Church. It's time to see people born again, it's time to see people water baptized, it's time to see God's presence change the lives of many, it's time to see people become devoted followers of Jesus.
- E. Friends, the past is behind us, the present is here now, and the future is ahead. It's time to ADVANCE