



The Birth of the Vision

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INTRODUCTION

The birth of the vision is the first session to bring your audience to the place of recognizing how God took Nehemiah through a process from which a need soon became the foundation for a powerful vision. One of the largest mistakes that people make today is believing they are the person to meet a need just because it's there. There are also those who do not understand their gifts, talents, passions and personality so as to realize what vision God has for their life. Session one helps people to grasp how a vision is birthed. What are the stages and how does a person's need fit into this?

#1

THE INVESTIGATIVE SEEKING FOR THE NEED

¹The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, ²that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. ³And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity

in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.” Nehemiah 1:1-3

The Birth of the Vision is directed toward finding God’s vision for people’s lives. The Vision could be associated with a job, ministry or personally. The number one problem in beginning the road toward a vision is that many times there is no need that the vision is trying to meet. The person starts implementing the vision and within a few months they begin to wonder why they started. Without a need the vision will not succeed because there is no driving force. What is the goal of the vision? Habitual Investigation of the need is about finding the need that God wants you to meet. In Nehemiah’s life it was that his people were in great distress and reproach and that the walls were broken down and the gates were burned with fire. That was the need.

Notice that Nehemiah was not passively waiting for the need to come to him. Meaning, he asked Hanani and the other brethren a question. This is how investigation of the need is found. By asking questions. When teaching part 1 emphasize the question, “When was the last time you were with someone and you asked them if they needed

anything?” That’s where habitual investigation of the need begins. With a question.

#2

THE INTENTIONAL SYMPATHY WITH THE NEED

So it was, when I heard these words that I sat down and wept ...Nehemiah 1:4a

The empathetic identification with the need took place when Nehemiah saw the need and then felt the need in his heart. Nehemiah had the choice to ignore the need but he didn’t. He took the need, with all of its pain, and brought it right down into his heart. He felt what they felt. When someone sees the need of another person, organization or country the decision to feel what the people in need feel is entirely up to them.

Nehemiah sat down and wept. He identified the pain and hurt of the people. He opened up his own heart and connected with the emotions of his people who were in great distress and reproach. Today, most people don’t ever do this. “Life is too busy” or “I have been hurt too many times to help another person” is what some say. In order to begin a vision that meets a real need there must be a connection between the need and the person who is starting

the visions heart. Without this attachment the vision will not be accomplished in the end.

#3

THE INSTINCTIVE BONDING TO THE NEED

...and mourned for many days... Nehemiah 1:4b

The instinctive bonding to the need happens automatically to a person. It actually is not noticed until a later time. Nehemiah heard the words of his countrymen and sat down and wept. This was his choice. The instinctive bonding came next. He mourned for many days. The need stuck to him! He got up to leave the men he was talking to and the need he just heard stuck to him. Then he mourned for many days.

The need bonded to him. He didn’t try to bond with the need it stuck to him. There are many needs that we hear about that we never feel any emotional attachment. The reason certain needs stick to our hearts while others do not, is by God design. He gives each specific talents, gifts and a unique personalities. These aspects are like magnets that pull certain needs toward every person. Some stick and some do not. The challenge is to find what need sticks best. That need should be what each person bases their vision on because that is

what they feel most strongly about. When teaching this part, continue to emphasize the fact that many people are meeting needs that they don't feel strongly about. Stop and ask the question, "If I could do anything in the world, and had all the money I needed, what would I do?" That should help most people decide what God really wants them to do with their life.

#4

THE INTENSIFYING BURDEN FOR THE NEED

4...I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. Nehemiah:4c

Unlike the instinctive bonding issue that influences you without you knowing it until a later time, the intensifying burden to meet the need is more of an active role.

Nehemiah chose to fast and pray about this need. The burden became overwhelming and he needed to take it to God. He took the need and placed it upon his own back and made it his burden. At this point the burden becomes more intense. The need now becomes a daily aspect of life. Upon waking you begin thinking about the need. When at work or home and you begin to pray about the need. While working on a project and you wonder if you

are the person to meet this need. The burden is heavy. In most cases, the greater the need the greater the burden. Many people go to work every day that have no burden for their job. These people work only to make money to pay bills. If there are no needs being met in a person's job, then there will be no intense burden for them to do that job. When you teach part 4, make sure that the audience questions themselves. Do they have an intense burden to do in their own lives? What do they constantly think about? And most importantly, are they doing that which they know God has called them to do?

#5

THE INTUITIVE BELIEF THAT YOU COULD MEET THE NEED

Without the visionary's belief that they are the person called to meet this particular vision, it won't work. How can the visionary ask for money to fund the vision or ask people to help if they think that someone else should be doing it instead of them? Deep down inside of the heart of the visionary they know that God has not only called them to begin this vision but He has also gifted them to meet the need of the vision. They know that they can do it. Without the belief, when the trials come,

the visionary will crumble. The internal belief that they will meet this need personally, continually drives them even as the large obstacles arise. Without believing that they are the person to meet the need, when the large obstacles arise, they will in turn, talk themselves out of the vision. "It really wasn't meant to be." "I wasn't the right person for the job." So, when you are teaching this, make sure that the audience solidifies in each of their minds, they believe they can meet the need of the vision that they are undertaking.

#6

THE INTERNAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE NEED

After the visionary has believed that they are the person who is to meet the specific need of the vision, the acceptance step is the internal accountability that they will do this. Before it was a belief and now it is the action of that belief. The internal accountability is when the visionary accepts mentally the responsibility to meet the need. First there must be the belief that the visionary is the person to meet the need. Second the visionary must determine that they will meet that need. In most cases, they will probably share the need/

vision with one other individual which then cements the decision. Without admitting the problem and the solution there will not be any action. When teaching this sixth part of Birth, the audience should be asking a couple of key questions, “Does God want this need met?” “Is it meeting direct commands in Scripture?” Without believing that God wants this done it is difficult to justify your actions. Fulfilling His will and sharing the need and vision with others will help keep you accountable in taking the next point of “Initial Action” seriously.

#7

THE INITIAL ACTION TO MEET THE NEED

After the visionary has accomplished the previous 6 parts of the Birth of the Vision, the last part is to solidify the decision by taking the first small step. How does one begin down this exciting path? One step has to be taken to get the ball rolling. A fund raising event, asking another person for help, selling or buying an item, etc. Many visions have had perfect plans but no one took the first initial action to cause the momentum to begin. When teaching the audience make sure that you give concrete examples of how to take this first step. Name some of your personal visions you have started in

the past and show how you began. How: difficult was it? You then had an obligation. Tie in the fact that the mental belief that you could and must do the vision combines with the physical when a task is performed. The mental and physical merge and then the reality of the vision starts hitting hard. That’s the punch line.

CONCLUSION

What makes session one so powerful is when the audience realizes that God does not pick one or two people out of a hundred to be a “visionary”. He calls all to be visionaries. God calls all of His people in different ways to think about the pressing needs of the surrounding people. He never stops meeting people’s needs and neither should you or me.

The second reason why session one is so transformational is the fact of how a vision is birthed. So many start a vision without any passion or burden to do that particular need. This helps many to understand what they should be doing with their life. Don’t be surprised if a portion of your audience has a difficult time grasping this first session. The further that someone is out of their gift mix the more upsetting these materials will be for them. They will realize that God has been calling them for years to another task but they have been unwilling

to move. This will challenge them greatly.

Lastly, remember that there will be a unique mix of the people in your audience.

You could have a housewife with two children, sitting next to a business executive running a multi-million dollar organization, who is sitting next to a pastor of ten thousand. Use many illustrations to relate to all groups and you will help them to connect with who they really are and where they need to be headed in life. And is that not what a vision is really supposed to do?

Excerpted from the
Bruce Wilkinson Course:
The Vision of the Leader;

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