

## Through the lens – Jesus lens.

### Week 1

#### Vision Through the Lens.

A Big Picture (Panorama of BBC – Panorama of Bathurst)

#### My place in God's view.

One thing I have learnt from taking photo's is that any other photographer will look at the same situation completely differently to me.

We may have the same scene before us, the same camera, the same lens yet come up with a different image. Is one better than the other? Sometimes. Is one more right than the other? Sometimes. Really, the cool part is, different people have different ways of looking at things. Different perspectives. Think of this next time you take a photo.

What does God see when He looks at the scene?

One thing I noticed on holidays, (Fitzroy Falls) the photo looks good, but the real thing well, it's amazing.

It's the same question we need to ask when we are looking at vision or direction or purpose or future.

What does God see?

#### God's Big Picture

**The flow of Biblical history.** (God's story throughout the bible) The bible is a story of God's involvement with a bunch of people.

**The flow of Church History** (God's story throughout history after the bible) Church history is the history of God's involvement with His people.

**The flow of BBC History.** (157 years of ministry in Bathurst) BBC history is the history of God's involvement with us lot.

I want to look at **Another aspect of Perspective.**

#### My place in God's view.

I believe God's vision for us is bigger than we can comprehend.

**EPH 3:20** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

**I used to teach a three week series on Mentoring called Mentor a mate. At different times Marianne has taught mentoring to ladies as well using the same basic material.**

I ask the question in the Men at the Mentor a Mate program

1. Where have you been?
2. Where are you going?
3. Who can help you get there?

These sound like very motivational questions and very personal about a person's direction. But really, answering those three questions gives us a better handle on who we can be for God. And those questions can help us nail our vision.

Where have you been is about what experiences and relationships have made you who you are.

Where are you going is about who you want to be and who you can be.

And who can help you get there is about being part of God's church in attaining your best and the best of others.

Now why bring these up. Well, if we are to make a personal impact with our lives as individuals or even make an impact on our community as a church, we need to know who we are, where we are going and who we are travelling with.

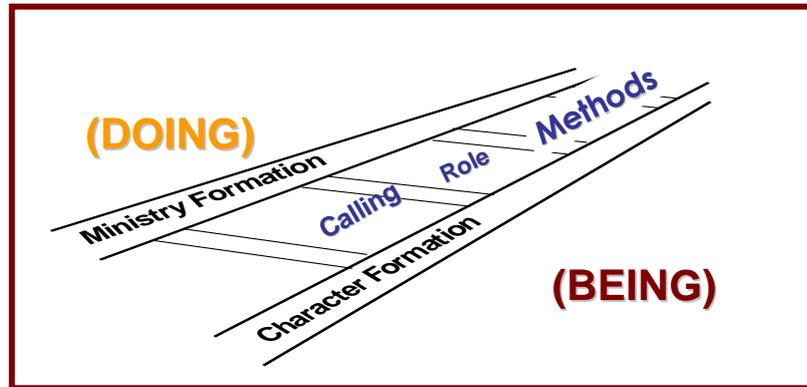
Look at Psalm 78. We get the idea of God's directional leading through how He selected David.

**Psalm 78:70-71**

**He chose David his servant  
and took him from the sheepfolds;  
from following the nursing ewes he brought him  
to shepherd Jacob his people,  
Israel his inheritance.  
With upright heart he shepherded them  
and guided them with his skillful hand.**

Psalm 78:72

## Two-Track Formation



(The train tracks.)

To get where we are going – we need to be being what God wants and doing what God wants.

1. We need to be developing our being (Character) and
2. We need to be developing our doing (Skills, and abilities for God's use)

That's what we see in David's life.

Look at Psalm 78:72 in a different translation.

PS 78:72 And David shepherded them with integrity of heart;  
with skillful hands he led them.

A couple more questions:

Could we do a ministry for God incapacitated?

Would you do ministry for God if you have to pay for it?

I suppose what I mean by those questions is:

Would you do anything possible to do what you believe God wants you to?

If you could do anything for God, without restraint, what would it be?

What stops you?

Is what is stopping you valid?

Elijah – had seen God work in amazing ways – yet he got scared and ran away.

Peter knew Jesus yet denied that He knew Jesus.

David murdered and committed adultery.

What stopped them was themselves. They had everything they needed, yet they held themselves back.

What about us? We have everything we need accessible to us. What is stopping us? Usually, it is ourselves.

Here is a choice for us.

Joshua 24:15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

What do you want to do for God? Do you want to do anything for God or do you just want God to do for you?

I suppose the question really is.  
Who do I live for?

2 Cor 5: 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

This verse gives us our perspective. If we call ourselves Christians we should live for Jesus. If we don't live for Jesus, can we really call our selves Christians?

Your vision really is about your relationship to Jesus. My vision must be about my place in God's vision.

I heard years ago at a youth seminar about "How to fit God into your life" It was all about finding time for bible study, church, prayer life etc.  
But you know what? I cant do it. I cant fit God into my life, because He is bigger than my life. He doesn't fit, **I have to fit into Him.**

When we realize that then these verses come into their own and make sense.

Phil 3:10 I want know to Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

PHP 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Hey, what imagery, straining to find where I fit, pressing on to do God's stuff, wanting to know what God wants me to know.

I need to fit into God's purpose for me. Yeh.

- (i. So my vision needs to be my purpose for living – fitting into God, being lived out.
  - (ii. But there is a scary bit. It is a risk. Exciting yes, but a risk.
- God keeps using words in the bible like this to describe following Him.

Joshua 1:9 *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

I will not leave you in any doubt. Doing what God wants is

1. Hard work
2. Scarey at times
3. Uncomfortable
4. But the best is yet to come.

What is your desire today? To fit into God, be Someone's hero as John said last week  
Or to have a comfortable life. Your vision or God's vision.