



Vision 2019 By Pastor Jody May

Psalm 78:1-8; 65-72 ESV

Tell the Coming Generation

78 A MASKIL OF ASAPH.

¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my
mouth!
² I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
³ things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.
⁴ We will not hide them from their
children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his
might,
and the wonders that he has done.
⁵ He established a testimony in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers
to teach to their children,
⁶ that the next generation might know
them,
the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,
⁷ so that they should set their hope in
God
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;

⁸ and that they should not be like their
fathers,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not
steadfast,
whose spirit was not faithful to God.

⁶⁵ Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,
like a strong man shouting because
of wine.
⁶⁶ And he put his adversaries to rout;
he put them to everlasting shame.
⁶⁷ He rejected the tent of Joseph;
he did not choose the tribe of
Ephraim,
⁶⁸ but he chose the tribe of Judah,
Mount Zion, which he loves.
⁶⁹ He built his sanctuary like the high
heavens,
like the earth, which he has founded
forever.
⁷⁰ He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheepfolds;
⁷¹ from following the nursing ewes he
brought him
to shepherd Jacob his people,
Israel his inheritance.
⁷² With upright heart he shepherded them
and guided them with his skillful
hand.

**HEART or CONFLICT &
CONVICITON**

HEAD or CONFIDENCE:

HANDS or CONDUCT:



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The Vision for Highlands Community Church:

*Developing next generation **LEADERS** that are **DEDICATED** and **PREPARED** for the work of the Gospel.*

The everyday Mission for every Highlander:

*Making Disciples that **SERVE** Jesus.*

What do these things do for us as a people, why do churches have them? **To unite us as one people under one cause.**

BTW every church should have the same Mission statement even though it may be worded differently. **Mat. 28:19** *"Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name and the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* Then to bring a little more clarity to what a disciple does we added the word **SERVE** because that is what Jesus says a disciple does, they doesn't just watch, observe, and learn. No, Jesus makes the bold claim that a disciple follows and serves his master. **John 12:26** ²⁶ *If anyone **serves** me, he must **follow** me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will **honor** him.* These statements over the years to come are meant to hold us as a people to a cause, to hold each other accountable, to **UNITE, only if they are empowered by the Gospel.** The text we read today was given with the same hope to the OT church, Israel, with the Hope of uniting them under one cause.

Asaph is a song writer or transcriber in the later periods of the Kingdom of Judah. This particular song or poem was written with a specific purpose in mind. **It was to Unite God's people by focusing their HOPE by reminding them of who God was.**

⁷ **so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;**

This is still the same formula for the church today, **we have no right and will never be properly united UNLESS we seek God first and put Hope in Him ALONE**, then and only then will we be able to rally and unite under the banner of God. **And the right way to view God is through the lens of the Gospel, that is He has united us in Christ (through His work), relating us as family (making us heirs of His Kingdom), and bonded us for a mission (tell and demonstrate this to the world).**



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- We may have a Vision statement but without keeping the Gospel central in our lives it will always miss the mark.
- We may have Unity but without the Gospel we will always be united in the wrong things.
- But when we have the Gospel first and foremost in our midst we will be united in a Vision that will hit the mark that God wants, whether we think it does or not.

So today, I just want to simply lay out Asaph's strategy for trying to give His people vision, and then I want to overlay on top of that of where I believe God is calling this church not just for a near but a distant future.

3 Goals given by Asaph that are transferable for us today!

Goal #1 - To Prepare the Next Generation for Holiness.

7b, ***"not forget the works of God"*** mighty works, when you look through most of this Psalm it recounts all of God's miracles in bringing them out of Egypt and providing for them in the wilderness. If we want to help our next generation prepare for the future we must be a people that talk not only of what God can do for you but spend more time in celebrating what God has done.

7c, ***"keep His commandments"*** Asaph reminds the people that the law is the way to respond to God and to live out the Covenant of Grace He had with them. It was to show the world that God's people lived not for themselves but for love of God and others and having a law to live by was the way to show it. It's another reminder that we are saved by Faith but faith without works is dead.

8a, ***"they should not be like their ancestors stubborn and rebellious"*** It is the responsibility of all parents and elders in this church not to constantly glorify the good old days but be humble and teach those under you about the mistakes you made and how they should avoid the. Our stories should be about our foolishness and God's Grace not our achievements.

8b, ***"be loyal and faithful to God alone"*** We need to call the next generation to being loyal to God alone even when we didn't do it good. There have been times in my life when I have lived a life



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that resembled more of Hell than Heaven but I cannot slack on my duty to call people to be loyal to God even if I was not.

All of that adds up to Holiness, to be called out of the world to be separate to look different, so that people may see God in your life and be drawn to him. **All of that is good but it wasn't enough for them back then, what is going to make it different for us now, because our command is still to be holy?** 1 Peter 1:16 Peter quotes Lev. 11:44 to "be Holy for God is Holy" meaning that is a command for the NT church. What is going to be our motivator to get us to live this way? We'll get to that in a few minutes but first goal #2.

Goal #2 – To Teach the Next Generation Salvation is from God alone.

65 Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,
66 And he put his adversaries to rout;
67 He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,
68 but he chose the tribe of Judah,
69 He built his sanctuary like the high heavens,
70 He chose David his servant

This is nothing new for you and I but it does need to be stated for it is here in the text. We don't only fine a theology of God's Sovereignty in the NT but the OT as well. The 5 Solas are empowered by God of the OT for He always acts first to bring Himself Glory. **Let us be reminded that if we are to keep the Gospel central then let's do it rightly, Salvation starts with God, is carried on by God and it will endure by His strength for according to these verses God starts all plans and ensures their success.**

But even this wasn't enough assurance to keep the Israelites loyal to God, and they still became rebellious like their ancestors to the point that when Jesus did come as God in the flesh, they no longer believed God did the saving but they were saved by their works, only a remnant believed otherwise. There is still something needed and we will fall into that same works trap unless there is a stronger testimony of God's Sovereign Salvation for us than what Asaph has listed here.

Goal #3 – To Proclaim Christ as the Messiah of God; Savior and Lord.



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- ⁷⁰ He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheepfolds; ...
- ⁷² With upright heart he shepherded them
and guided them with his skillful hand.

Asaph says look, with all of that please remember that God has provided a King to unite us as one people, someone that stood for us and we have been promised through that line someone will come and do it again. But at this point in the story, the people did remember David fondly, but they are also in turmoil for the kings have let them down, have abused the sheep. And if the story stops here we too would still be lost. But we have received He who has come to unite us with the power of the Gospel, in His own words.

John 10:11 & 14 ESV

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

Someone came and remembered all the good things God had done, someone came and kept the law when we did not, someone remembered the rebellion of their fathers and did not repeat it, someone came and understood the plan of God's Salvation when we were blind to it, and someone gave His life for the sheep when all our past shepherds would not. So now when we live out our Vision through our Mission:

*Developing next generation **LEADERS** that are **DEDICATED** and **PREPARED** for the work of the Gospel.*
BY

*Making Disciples that **SERVE** Jesus.*

It is not by the power of our will that we will try but by the force of His, and because of what Jesus did for us we will give our life trying... So what we leave with today is this fact:

A God given Vision is only doable by a Jesus Glorifying Gospel.

Now, to put this theory to the test. We have a very specific Vision BUT I want to give it some teeth, so that we know **why it is important.** I also want to give it some qualifiers so that we all can see that unless a Jesus Glorifying Gospel is central in our lives it will not be



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accomplished. Here's what I am saying in layman's terms, we are going big or we are going home! So here's the plan..

5 in 10 in 20

Plant 5 Churches in 10 Years in a 20 Mile Circumference.

Now so we all can breathe a little easier this morning, we are not starting this until 2020.

2019 the theme for this year is one-word PREPARATION...

In order to prepare for the work of planting churches, the work of raising up leadership for these churches we have three things we are going to be working on this year:

Objective #1: Practice Building up People for the Work of the Church.

Objective #2: Practice Building up Biblical Friendships.

Objective #3: Practice Modeling Biblical Hospitality.

A God given Vision is only doable by a Jesus Glorifying Gospel.

PRAYER

COMMUNION

BLESSING

- **Go in the name of the Father that ...**
- **Go in the name of the Son who ...**
- **Go in the Power of the HS which...**