

# Stepping into Tomorrow

## Vision Sunday

Joshua 1:1-5

November 25, 2018

**Focus:** Clarity and focus helps us see what the future can look like.

**Passage:** *After the death of Moses the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said,<sup>2</sup> "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them.<sup>3</sup> I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you—<sup>4</sup> from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.'<sup>5</sup> No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.*

### Message

Good morning. Obviously, I am not Pastor Dave. He is on a family vacation but, since he is our vision pastor we will hear from him today. But, I'm Neil Raup and I am the chair of the new Leadership Council. The church governing structure was reimagined as a part of our new NEXT 2.0 vision that we launched in January. We moved to the new simplified structure as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year and since then we have been meeting monthly as well as spent time together as a Leadership Council on a planning retreat. At that retreat we designed out the 2019 goals for our church as well as identified the core values for CrossPoint Church...which, Pastor Dave will be covering in a future sermon series coming in 2019.

Today, we're taking the important time we need together to talk about our vision and how it impacts the life of every person who is connected with CrossPoint Church. Andy Stanley says: *a vision is a mental picture of a preferred future. It is a what COULD BE that is fueled by a SHOULD BE. A vision is preferred future if we can solve a known problem.* So, with that definition in mind, I want to take a moment to look at how Joshua was given a vision for the future of the people of God that included the promised land and how we've been given a vision for us – as God's people today.

The account we heard today from Joshua chapter one is about transition and vision. The final words of the previous book, Deuteronomy, tells us that Moses was taken to the top of Mount Nebo and shown the Promised Land and then was told that he would not lead the people into this next journey. Earlier this year I stood at the spot they believe Moses heard those words...I looked across the valley, across the Jordan river and into the Promised Land, it was an amazing sight to see. It was awe inspiring. That's what a vision can do...they're inspirational. And now Joshua is in charge of leading the people of God across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land and the new vision God has for these people. This is not a casual walk through a creek. This is a push forward into a new world. Joshua discovered quickly that:

**Vision's are not passive things.**

The transition from what was to what can be means that the people are to leave the 40 years of wondering in the wilderness and move into this new land that God is giving to them. God has proclaimed that the time has come to go into the future! (Joshua 1:2) Now this is challenging – 40 years is a long time to do something and change does not come easy for most of us. But God says to Joshua that the old way is gone and new day is here and Joshua will be its new leader. At CrossPoint we have moved into a new structure. Our new Leadership Council stands beside our vision pastor and the staff to guide the church into the new future God has given us. So, let me turn us to the screens to hear from our vision pastor, Dave, and what our vision for the future looks like.

#### Turn to video of Dave...

- a. Our mission is to *Love God, Love Others* and help people *become Disciples* of Jesus
- b. The vision God has given us is that in order to live that out we are to become a church that puts family first, that sees the community at the center of who we are, and to think about the needs and eternal lives of others so much so that we are always mission minded.

#### Back to Neil Raup...

So, that's the vision God has given us here at CrossPoint Church. One of the things that is vitally important for us is to understand the clarity that a vision can give. A vision has the power to guide and direct a people into a preferred future with a clear picture of what can be. **A vision has the ability to guide and direct.** For Joshua (Joshua 1:3-4) he is told that where ever you place your foot, within a certain geographical area, will be yours. The boundaries are clear and the message precise... where ever you put your foot from this place in the south to that place in the north, from east to west, its yours.

Have you ever woken up from an extremely vivid dream that stays with you all day? That's what a vision has the power to do...to stay with you, to impact your thinking. God's vision for CrossPoint Church is meant to impact all of us, together. It is not Pastor Dave's vision it is a vision for what CrossPoint Church can look like if we *Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples*. As the Leadership Council chairperson, I'm here to tell you that it's time for all of us to capture what the future can look like for our church, our families, our communities and the world God has called us to. Our staff has captured the vision and are doing great things to lead us into the future but, they can not and should not be doing this on their own. It's not theirs to carry...it's ours. This vision belongs to all of us.

So, here's what it looks like for us to live out the vision of being *family first, community centered and mission minded*. In the first six month of the vision we turned our focus on what it looks like to make places where everyone feels like they are a part of the family. We took a look at our hospitality ministries and how were we doing, and then we did a massive training of all our hospitality servants. We wanted to make sure that the front line of interaction with guest was one that was not just positive but, over the top. We put into motion our new 4G discipleship plan that will help people find their next steps easily once they walked into our buildings. We hired a new Children and Family pastor, Matt Reichard. Pastor Dave has asked our two retired pastors: Pastors Ted Yohe and Pastor Tom Johnson, to start checking in on our shut-in folks and our

oldest members several times a year. We've developed a protocol that helps us intentionally reach out to guests who are looking for a church home. In the future we will be reevaluating all of our congregational care ministries such as our prayer supporter, our hospital visitation team, our home communion servants, and our meal ministries to see how we can improve and align what we're doing as a church family. We will be adding at least 8 new Life Groups in 2019 with Pastor Dave starting a group for new people each quarter. Other new groups will be starting in 2019 with the hope that at least half of the people who are currently not in a small group can easily find a group to be a part of.

This vision also moves us from inside these walls and out into the community. It means we ask ministry questions differently like, where would it serve the community best to do what we're currently doing? We have developed partnerships in the greater Harrisburg community that allow us to advance the message of Jesus Christ. These partnerships with like-minded organizations are doing great things but, they need our help. There's no need to create the wheel when it comes to reaching our community. We can partner with ministries and organizations that are already doing great things and make it better? This vision also means that each campus connects with the local elementary school in its neighborhood. Both North Side and Rutherford elementary school see the needs of families in our communities. We discovered an openness at both schools and this year we began doing projects at both schools. We are currently working with the leaders at both schools to see how we can expand those opportunities so that no matter what your work schedule or time constraints, you will be able to give back to the community you live in – in ways that will directly support families. We have started recruiting what will be a team of dedicated and passionate people who long to see people in our communities come to know Jesus. This evangelism team will begin in 2019 and guide the rest of us as we reach out with the love of Jesus to our neighborhoods and our city. Our heart for people drove us to adopt the FOR Harrisburg movement so that people will know God loves them and is FOR them. It is our goal to have 100 people make a commitment to Jesus Christ in 2019.

That means our missions outreach will continue. This year we created a mission's team who is giving focus and clarity to all our mission efforts. Led by pastor Matt, who has been a missionary, this team has been looking at what we are currently doing in the area of mission with an eye to helping us get better at reaching out to people in need. Our food pantry and clothing connection at the Rutherford campus is restructuring its leadership so it can continue to reach 100's of people monthly. Our Home Improvement Ministry restructured this year and is looking forward to new projects in 2019. Our Sierra Leone missions team committed to building three new classrooms at the elementary school in our sister village of Maboleh in 2019.

Sounds like God has given us a vision that has us doing some great things in 2019. Let me turn you to Pastor Dave, our vision pastor for just a few comments

Turn to video of Dave...

- a) We can do more with a laser beam than we can with a flood light
- b) Focus will be required (do not turn to the left or to the right)
- c) This vision asks us to be fearless. God is with us, let us not be fearful or discourage

[Neal, here's where you offer some of your own closing words]