

Proverbs 29:18 Reactionary or Visionary

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

More Familiar with the KJV – Where there is no vision the people perish

We live in a world now where – Temperature checks are becoming a normal thing

A)Temp check to enter the Docs office, Dentist office, hospitals, some places of employment

B)Today we want to do a Spiritual temperature check –

1)How is your spiritual and emotional temperature today?

It has been a hard week this week – watching and reading the scenes coming out of Afghanistan – Our GOVT botched that one

A)Now innocent people are suffering – the Christians in that country are in grave danger.

B)Grieving seeing more and more scandals coming out relating to Pastors or Christian leaders being **exposed for sexual sin**

1)So aggravating – Seeing people lose faith in the Lord/ the church because of it – innocent people victimized.

C)What about the mounting frustrations as many employers across America are requiring people to get the COVID vaccine Shot

D)Doesn't matter your personal preference about the Vaccine – I know that is a divided issue

1)But the Government nor an employer should not be able to force people to inject something into their body they are not comfortable with

BTW – I have been asked a few times now if the COVID vaccine is the mark of the beast? NO!!!

A)The Mark of the beast is something the book of Revelation teaches about that – **a man named the Anti-Christ will invoke in the Tribulation**

B)The Purpose of it will be a personal identification mark of some kind – might be by a tattoo or a chip –

1)The purpose of it will be two-fold –

C)#1 it is a person's knowledgeable way of pledging their allegiance to the Anti-Christ and his Govt.

D)And it will be the only way that you can buy or sell and get provisions –

1)people will have to take THE Mark to survive

But the COVID vaccine is different from that –

A)However the mandating of it worldwide is the set up for what is going to be happening in the world during the Tribulation time – Precursor

B)Where you have to show proof of your vaccination before you can be allowed into countries and Hospitals and establishments

C)All of that is setting up our world for a day that the Bible says is coming where those left on planet earth after the rapture.....

1)Those left behind will be mandated to take this mark in order to survive.

D)So what have been seeing in the past 18 months with first the whole world getting on the same page and shutting down ...

1)And now the promotion of these vaccine mandates are signs of the times of where the world is headed in the not too distant future.

So As you see these type of issues mounting –

A)what is happening to your spiritual and emotional temperature?

B)That is what we are going to Talk about today

People generally fall into one of two categories

A)First of all there is the Reactionary –

B)The Reactionary is the individual who reacts to a situation or circumstance – what is going on.

C)A Reactionary is like a Thermometer that registers the temperature of the room.

1)It registers the temperature of the situation or circumstance

Too hot – they are heated

A)Too Cold – indifferent

B)Or just right – everyone is happy

C)So first of all you have the reactionaries – always quick to react to what is going on

1)Up down – all around

But then you have the visionary

A)The visionary relies on Revelation – not reacting to situations and circumstances

B)Visionaries are like a thermostat that sets the temperature of the room –

1)the situation or the circumstance

C)A Reactionary is like a Thermometer – that registers the temp of the room, the situation the circumstance

C) Visionaries are like a thermostat that REGULATES the temperature

1)Able to speak life into a situation

Back to our Text – Where there is no Vision the People Perish

A)CSB - ¹⁸ **Without revelation' people run wild.**

B)They are just all over the place – responding emotionally to everything

C)Often a Wake of Chaos follows them – people get hurt

I want us to consider a guy in the Bible who started off as a Reactionary

A)but who became a Visionary – see what we can learn from life

B)One of my Favorite Bible Characters – (See myself in him too often)

1)Peter the Reactionary that became a Visionary

C)Tended to React – Matthew 17 Mt. of Transfiguration - **Reacts EXCITED** - let me Build

1)This is my beloved Son – listen to Him – Slow down Peter – Listen

D)The time Jesus is telling his disciples of the death that awaits him at Jerusalem –

1)once again Peter reacts – CONSTERNATION

E)Lord don't talk like that – you are being a downer – Killing the momentum / **get behind me satan**

John 18 – The night of Jesus betrayal / arrest

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. 2 And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. 3 Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" 5 They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. 6 Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?"

{Cautiously} And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

8 Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,"

9 that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."

10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"

Here we have Peter who hours before Pledged I will not deny you

A)Reacts – Takes out his sword – swings it and cuts a guy's ear off

B)Interesting – None of the other Gospel writers name Peter – "one of the Disciples"

1)Only John names Peter – Rivalry between the two

C)When John writes about the Resurrection – He said that he and Peter ran to the tomb,

1)but because he was younger – he outran Peter Arrived there first – FUNNY

Well John names Peter – Peter reacts and takes out his sword

A) Jesus says - Peter no - Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"

B) Peter's reaction was so far outside of the will of God and the plan of God.

C) Think about this: What was happening to Jesus made no sense to Peter

1) Judas Betraying and soldiers coming to arrest Jesus
– No sense – I will protect Jesus

Peter didn't realize why this was

A) What was happening to Jesus was exactly in line with the will and plan of God

B) It had to happen for the greater good to be accomplished -

1) it was the cup that the Father had given to Jesus to drink

C) I wonder how many times in our lives we react to something that is happening –

1) we are thinking – this can't be God's will!

D) This makes no sense – God needs my help –

1) and we end up lashing out and hurting someone by our reaction

E) But God doesn't need our help at all – in the same way Jesus didn't need Peter's help – Matt 26:52-54

⁵² "Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? ⁵⁴ But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?"

F) Peter – Put away your sword – listen I could call down the Angels to help if I wanted to

1) I don't need your help

G) What is happening is in line with the plan and purpose of my Father

So too in our lives often times what is happening is totally in line with the will of God and the plan of God

A) Even though it makes no sense to us!

8 "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55:8,9**

When we see these crazy things happening in our world – we think could it get any worse? Yes

A) But don't get worked up – don't get overheated or filled with fear – SIGN OF THE TIMES

B) Things are simply moving in the direction that the Bible says they would be moving in the last days

C) Things that at one time were a mystery are coming into play –

Don't get all worked up – but unfortunately what I see happening today –

A) A lot of Christians are reacting to what is happening

B) Spiritual temperature of Anger – frustration – Division –

B) Christians reacting and cutting others with their tongues

1) **Proverbs 12:18; Reckless words pierces like a sword,**

C) A lot of Reactionary Christians right now – being reckless with their words – piercing others

1) Shooting off their big mouths

D) Some even using this Sword the Bible out of Context – getting others worked up

1) Off point – filled with fear and frustrations

E) They are good at being Thermometers – things are getting hot – things are getting bad

1) The world is going to hell in a hand basket

Proverbs 12:18; Reckless words pierces like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

A) Those who are visionaries – don't just look at the situation and say – BAD – HORRIBLE

B) They're wise – they are able to speak life into the situation – they have answers

C)Remember Jesus told his disciples – Salt of the earth

Salt had several uses in the first century culture

A)Like today it was used to enhance flavor

B)It was also used as a preservative – meat

C)Salt was used medicinally – treat wounds

SO when Jesus said to his disciples you are to be the Salt of the earth it meant all of that

A)You are to be that element in society that Preserves righteousness

B)Voting for the right things and the right people

1)School boards – city councils - Having a voice about things that are important to God

C)It also meant that we are to be a healing element in society –

1)in the midst of the hurt going on – our words can bring healing

D)Our attitudes and perspectives can be a game changer

E)And we are to enhance the flavor of the culture by the way that we live.

1)Diffuse uptight situations

Interesting to note – Luke's gospel tells us After Peter cut off the ear

A)Imagine that scene – Malchus is screaming – people are yelling – arrest Peter too. – Assault

B)then Jesus picked up Malchus' ear – puts it back on his head

1)Healed him —

C)Jesus last miracle before the cross was to cover Peter the blunder of his disciple Peter –

1)No condemnation – no accusations – are sins are GONE

D)SO JESUS tells Peter to put away his Sword – which he does

1)Peter would become a Visionary – less thermometer and more Thermostat

Acts 10

A)At this point in the history of the Church the gospel was still primarily spreading in Jews circles – hadn't gone to the gentiles yet

9 The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. {Lunch time busy}

A)Peter goes up on the roof – Quiet place, quiet time, quiet heart – something radical happens

10 Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance

11 and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. {All animals that were traditionally and ceremonially unclean

13 And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

14 But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! Oxy moron – Not So LORD – yes sir LORD

14 But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."

15 And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common."

16 This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

What Peter didn't realize – we are clued into at the beginning of the Chapter – Cornelius was seeking God

A)Send men to Joppa the house of Simon the Tanner – Find Peter ask him to come

B)Peter goes – Preaches the HS falls – Gentiles are saved

C)Reactionaries often hurt others
Visionaries save others

D)Reactionaries lash out
Visionaries reach out

How do we become Visionaries instead of Reactionaries? - 3 things

A)1st Preparation for Vision – Quiet place, time, heart

B)Habakkuk – was confused – How long oh Lord

C) God called him up into the tower to wait – God gave him a Vision

D) Write the vision make it plain so that those who read it may Run with it

E) Vision happens when we step back – don't get all caught up in the emotion of the situation

YOU want to stop running Wild – have direction for your life – your family –

A) Starts with Preparing yourself to receive Vision

B) Get alone with God!

2nd Vitally important – Seek Confirmation of the Vision

A) Peter – Confirmation 3 men are coming

B) Confirmation from the word – does this line up with the Bible

C) Confirmation from trusted friends leaders

1) Leadership team

D) Confirmation from your Spouse

1) Honey selling everything and moving to NZ

3rd Respond rightly to the Illumination through Vision

A) God might show you something that doesn't make sense to you – like Peter – Kill and eat – Not so Lord

B) But this is a part of his Plan

C) Embrace it and walk in it - Instead of NOT SO LORD

1) YES SIR LORD – right on Lord

D) Opens the door for Holy Spirit break through to happen

Want to be a Visionary instead of a Reactionary

A) Prep for– Confirmation of / respond to the Illumination of Vision

B) What does a Thermostat do to a thermometer?

1) It impacts it

C) Come in here – Temp in this room on a hot summer day – 90 degrees, stuffy, and humid

D) Steve sets the Thermostat to a cool 70 degrees –

1) The Thermometer changes – cools down

That is the affect that your life can have in a world that is getting more and more worked up

A) People all around us filled with fear – frustration

B) If we are going to be Salt – we must be seen as being different –

C) We know where this is all headed – It is not about GOVT folks – Presidents

It is about a King who is on the throne – Whose Kingdom is advancing – all over the world

A) In the midst of Chaos he is working

B) Do you know right now what country has the fastest growing church? – Iran – illegal

1) You know what country has the 2nd fastest growing church? Afghanistan

Horrible and tragic what is happening there

A) But if it causes more people to come to Jesus by viewing the contrast – Taliban vs Jesus

B) That is all a part of the plan

C) People are perishing – on their way to hell

1) The plan of God – More people saved

Close with this: When the Titanic hit the iceberg

A) It took 2.5 hours for the ship to sink

B) Many of the passengers in 1st class cabins refused to believe the warning cries – it can't sink

1) False alarm – stayed put – 1500 died

C) The Ship is going down – our job is to get people into the life boat of salvation – JESUS