



Where are you Going? Discover~ Get~ Set~ Clear~ Push~ Land

Sermon for Session Two: Get Ready to Dream Big!

We all have dreams. Dreams are the reality of life that spur us on to seek and embark on great adventures.

Over a year ago I visited here for a series of interviews after initial phone call interviews. After traveling over 3000 miles, I was not really sure what I'd find. When I came here I saw people who loved this place. That was obvious. I met people desperate to move forward, whatever that meant. I met people who had worked hard as lay volunteers to continue this ministry of memorial. And I saw potential. You see I was engaging in interviews all over the country, focusing on a few up here in North Eastern America. I was on the verge of accepting the anticipated call from Pennsylvania to a huge cathedral with four pastors where I would be the lead. After Memorial offered me a very quickly issued call, I was conflicted. Pennsylvania would feed my ego, and my pocketbook, but would that feed my soul? God said very plainly to me, "don't let Memorial be the second choice." He wanted me here and started showing me vision for this place. My call was to be obedient to that. I dropped everything else.

God showed me the neighborhood, the gifts of memorial and her assets to engage in evangelism. I saw a lot of work, a little change, but I saw dedication, and a desire from most of whom I met to move forward. The Vision was : "Prepare the way for growth". Make Memorial ready and enable them to share my love and my invitation to worship, relationship through study, youth ministries, and prayer ministry. Work with people to be organized and teach and prepare them to welcome new people.

So, I came. Lesson one, listen and obey. Lesson two, surround yourself with people who love God and you and each other well. Lesson three, steep your life in God-reality, God- initiative, God- provision. Where would I live...don't worry. I got this and he gave me people to find me a home, the perfect home, close to church, a comfortable place, and provide me with means to make it comfortable, safe, and mine.

First up, I wanted to give stability. So, I started as all pastors start, to meet you personally--immediately Covid19 came along and cabashed everything. I have only seen a ¼ to 1/3 of you at home or in a restaurant at this point—but our staff has called each one of you, and we will be doing that calling again next week. Keeping in touch with you is a part of relationship that we need and community we want. We have been so squashed in our efforts to be in relationship. But opportunities were immediate to be in your living room weekly for worship and for class, if you have internet. Opportunities

were immediate to be in the post with you if you do not weekly for worship, and weekly with blasts. And this opportunity allows us to grow...more people are in relationship with us online than we used to have, from different parts of the country. That's exciting. We were able to offer the meal and Sanctus Real Concert to build relationships with our neighbors. We'll have another opportunity to do that this year in a different way. We have been broadening our relationship with the body of Christ in our parish through activities and meetings, and our shared intern pastor. Alongside change and seeming instability has led to a growing, differing stability, and new evangelism opportunity that would have not been so without Covid19.

Second, we need to accept and embrace failure. Without trial and error, nothing new is learned, nothing new happens. We need to keep asking the important questions...What can I do, lord? What is it that you want? And the question we have been about last week, Who are we? Answered by Core Value Survey and Team. And Where are we?—History and Inventory questions that small groups are answering.

Today, our Reader has read some terrific scripture about plans and vision, about dreaming big.

Know this...

- We have a big God—nothing is impossible for Him and His dreams and work are huge! He never stops telling us about His dreams. He never stops calling us to be in relationship with Him and others and share in His dreams and have our own.
- We need big words to describe those visions and we need to share them.
- We need to chase him, not wave at him. We are welcome to dream big and to live abundantly. God cares about who we become.

WE are unique—don't compare to what was or what is somewhere else.

We are called—to listen up.

We dream big—because we are enabled to, don't miss the opportunity.

We are called to write it down and run around with it so everyone can see.

Think Week: Prepare yourself to dream big and hear God's big dreams. Prepare yourself to grow in relationship with Him, with your church and with those you have not yet met. Look at what we have, what's around us, take inventory, review History, seek demographics.

Be Obedient, let your heart fly with God, and share your God understanding with others.