

# Restore Our Vision

*Matt 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.*

- I. Introduction
  1. I want to preach about a restored vision to the church concerning the ministry priorities God has placed on my heart. It is time to reclaim the focus on the field and that vision God has given us for Brazil, Indiana.
  2. Some things have hindered our vision of the goal, so it is time to ask God to open our eyes!
  3. As when Elisha's servant saw a host compassing his city:  
*2 Kings 6:15-17*  
*15 And when the servant of the man of God*

*was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how [what] shall we do? 16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.*

*17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.*

4. The enemy had a host of horses and chariots. But God sent a mountain full of horses and chariots of fire that surrounded Elisha.
5. And those horses and chariots of fire helped send the enemy back home so they were no longer a threat.

6. I just wonder if we are looking at the size of the army against us, and are paralyzed to inactivity?
  7. We have had some large resistance in the past year, a pandemic that has continued to rise and devastate; many of us have experienced family crises and loss of life; many have experienced attacks of the enemy that have threatened your peace and sanity.
  8. That is why it is time to restore our vision and see the victory not the obstacle.
- II. The land was lost
- A. Authority surrendered
    1. As part of our restored vision for God's victory, it is important to see what is the cause of so much widespread destruction we see in families in our city.
    2. As Jesus' earthly ministry was just beginning, we read of this interaction between satan and Jesus during the

temptation in the wilderness:

*Luke 4:5-8*

*5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.*

*6 And the devil said unto him, All **this power will I give thee**, and the glory of them: for **that is delivered unto me**; and to whomsoever I will I give it.*

*7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.*

*8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

3. Satan told Jesus that all the power of the kingdoms of the world were “**delivered**” unto him. And what is interesting is that Jesus did not dispute that fact.

4. How could any territory on earth could be delivered unto satan? What does that mean?
5. **Definition:** The word “delivered” in verse 6 comes from the Greek word, paradidomi, which means surrender, yield up, hand over.
6. To help you understand this passage, it is important to notice that this verse does not say that God surrendered these lands over to the devil.
7. In the beginning, God delivered unto man the dominion over the earth, yet because of the sins of the kings of this earth, and the people of those kingdoms, they surrendered their kingdoms to the devil.
8. Paul identified spoke of that surrendered authority:

*Eph 2:2 Wherein **in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the***

***air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:***

9. The children of disobedience surrendered to that “prince.”

- B. The prince cast out

1. But as Jesus was facing the cross, He identified that this “prince’s” time was about up:

*John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.*

2. Jesus said that “prince” was even going to attempt to come after Him:

*John 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and **hath nothing in me.***

3. In other words, the devil has no authority over Jesus.

4. We need to recognize a spiritual reality of the battle before us.

5. We have been placed into a “field” by God and have been tasked with taking it for the kingdom.
6. Jesus reminded us of the need to “take it by force.”

*Matt 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*

7. And just a few verses later, Jesus revealed a truth that blows the devil’s deception about who is rightfully has the final authority:  
*Matt 11:27 All things are **delivered unto me of my Father**: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.*
8. The devil told Jesus the power and glory of the kingdoms was delivered unto him, and that is partly true.

9. When a people of a land, a region, a territory, a principality, yield to walking according to the course of this world, they are surrendering their God-given right of authority to the prince of the power of the air.
10. The sin of a land will lead that land into captivity and bondage under the influence of the devil.

### III. Our Year of Jubilee

#### A. Our 50<sup>th</sup>

1. But I want you to keep that in mind as we consider where we are in our history, meaning the history of the BUPC.
2. I learned from Bro. Robert McFarland, our church's second pastor, that he and Sis. McFarland arrived in Brazil on August 1975 on the church's four-year anniversary celebration.

3. The founding pastor, Bro. James Simmons, turned the church over to him in August 1975.
  4. So as of August 2021, our church will be 50 years old.
  5. Do you know what that means biblically?
  6. 2021 is our year of jubilee, and that deserves a great celebration!
- B. The law of release during jubilee
1. Leviticus 25-27 describes many details about the year of jubilee, but the primary effect of the year of jubilee is the law of release:

*Lev 25:9-10*

*9 Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land.*

*10 And **ye shall hallow the fiftieth year,** and proclaim liberty throughout all the land*

*unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.*

2. The purpose for the year of jubilee was that God wrote into the DNA of the structure of Israel's government, that every 50 years, the nation would focus on ensuring that liberty was made available to everyone throughout the land.
  3. Debts would be forgiven and sold properties would be returned to the one to whom the land was originally allotted.
  4. Jubilee impacted land sales throughout the country.
  5. For instance, if something happened that caused a family to be unable to take care of their property so that had to sell it to someone, the new buyer could only own it until the year of jubilee.
- c. Fields returned to the original owner

1. But when the year of jubilee arrived, the land would be returned to the original owner.  
*Lev 27:24 In the year of the jubilee the field shall return unto him of whom it was bought, even to him to whom the possession of the land did belong.*
2. In jubilee, the field would have to be returned to the one who had original ownership.
3. So a person's hardship could not be used as a reason for a man to permanently lose his field.
4. Well, Brazil is our field. And when the dominance of sin overtook our city capturing many people's lives under the control of the devil and evil ways, the evidence of that capture started being seen.
5. There are broken families, abused and neglected children, addictions, economic downturn, poverty, and homelessness.

6. Again, when a people of a land, a region, a territory, a principality, yield to walking according to the course of this world, they are surrendering their God-given right of authority to the prince of the power of the air.
7. The sin of a land will lead that land into captivity and bondage under the influence of the devil.
8. However, if we will apply the principles of the Year of Jubilee to Brazil, Indiana, the field will go back to the Original Owner in the Year of Jubilee. The One whose blood has paid the redemption price is the Owner.

D. Bought with a price

1. For sure, those of us who have received the Holy Ghost are bought with a price so we certainly don't need to live under bondage of the adversary.

*1 Cor 6:19-20*

*19 What? know ye not that your body is the*

*temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

*20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

2. But even those who are still living as servants who are called, they were also bought with a price:

*1 Cor 7:22-23*

*22 For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.*

*23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.*

3. Even those who are called while they are still servants can proclaim freedom as the Lord's freeman.
4. And that is where our responsibility comes in. Our job is to proclaim that our field, Brazil, Indiana, is to be returned to its

Rightful Owner, the One who bought us with a price.

5. By rule of the Year of Jubilee, they do not have to live as a servant of men or under the dominion of the evil one any longer.
6. Maybe our field was lost due to the hardship and bondage of the adversary, but his dominion does not result in permanent loss of the field due to the liberty proclaimed in the Year of Jubilee.
7. It is interesting that 2021 theme is: 2021 Field Focus.
8. Re-read that proclamation of the Year of Jubilee:  
*Lev 27:24 In the year of the jubilee the field shall return unto him of whom it was bought, even to him to whom the possession of the land did belong.*
9. We had begun discussing a 50-year celebration, but due to the pandemic restrictions, we never got solid plans in place, but that will be on the pastoral staff's

annual planning agenda to discuss for perhaps a date in late summer or early fall.

10. But I believe it is time to begin to live with the proclamation of the Year of Jubilee liberty for our field of Brazil, Indiana.
- IV. BUPC annual strategic planning
  1. The pastoral staff will be meeting in late August to discuss our annual planning for the next 12 months. We will be setting a time of fasting before that in August so that our .
  2. Home fellowship groups; onsite field labors; something like Victory in the Village to be set in Forest Park; offer CIP in jail; at Putnamville; bread to the hungry;
  3. *“But the needy will not be ignored forever; the hopes of the poor will not always be crushed.” Psalms 9:18 NLT*
  4. As we focus on strategic priorities, kids, youth, CIP, and feeding the hungry, we need to revive our mission focus and must

reinvent ourselves, our organizational structure, our methods, our ways of communicating the message, all so that we can better fulfill our mission statement.

5. “We’ve always done it this way” is not our vision or mission statement.
6. Our mission statement states that our purpose is:
  - a. Provide a place where we create an environment that enhances and encourages a desire to be saved;
  - b. Provides many opportunities to do so;
  - c. Infuses the Word of God into lives to promote spiritual growth;
  - d. Minister to the community in ways that bring glory to God and shines His light in the darkness.
7. Our departments and programs must be carefully evaluated to see if they fulfil one or more of those purposes. If so, let’s work on it.
8. If not, we need to ask why we’re doing it.

9. And as I mentioned, the Lord has revealed to us certain strategic focuses in our city that we have dedicated ourselves to. Vulnerable children and youth, drug addicts, and we were trying to introduce feeding the hungry.
10. I also made a statement in our watch night service that in 2021, we wanted to begin a home fellowship ministry at some point in 2021, when conditions permitted.
11. This is where a few homes are opened up to having fellowship with groups that share common traits, like age groups, such as youth or seniors, or couples, or singles, etc.
12. Those groups meet on a fairly regular basis to share fellowship, games, snacks, prayer, and a brief exhortation in the Word.
13. This is a field focus that has the potential of helping find and develop some treasures in the field, but will also give church members, and CIP students, some godly folks to

fellowship with who can become their spiritual mentors.

14. Having godly friends is a strong factor that will enhance anyone's spiritual walk, but especially those whose hanging out involved worldly friends and sinful habits.
  15. If you have the capacity to entertain 5-10 people in your home, for an hour and a half, a few times in the year, let me know.
  16. I'd like to know if we have 2-4 homes where we can try to get this started for a trial run in September. Let me know.
- v. Conclusion: Help wanted
1. As it is, our departments are in need of helpers.
  2. Our music ministry is in need of musicians and singers.
  3. Our media ministry needs assistance in the sound booth.
  4. Our youth ministry is in needs of teachers' assistants, and event helpers.

5. Our children's ministry is in need of teachers, and teachers assistants.
6. With VBS, we had to change the format due to the reduced number of helpers available.
7. Plus I need to add that volunteers in children's and youth ministry must pass a background check to be allowed to work with children and youth. That includes drivers who also need to complete a driving record check.
8. Our men's ministry is in need of project ideas and volunteers, as is our ladies' ministry.
9. And there have been many occasions that I've watched some of our department staff working alone on fulfilling their mission.
10. I've heard very little by way of complaints from them. Some just keep doing the work because it is their call to ministry.
11. That is why we are here at this time and place, resetting our goal as the **2021 Field Focus** :

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