

1 May 2016 - Sixth Sunday of Easter.

Readings: Acts 16:9–15; Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5; John 14:23–29.

Theme: *Dreams and visions* –Acts 16:9, “During the night **Paul had a vision...**” **Acts 2:17**, “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people... your young men will see **visions**, your old men will dream **dreams**.”



I. DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT ONE.

Proverbs 29:18, “Where there is **no vision**, the **people perish**.”

Luke 24:49, “**stay in the city** until you have been clothed with power from on high.” **Acts 16:6-7**, “**Paul and his companions travelled** throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching** the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but **the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to**.”

Brian Houston, *Live Love Lead*, “The only time I haven’t enjoyed this level of satisfaction (filled with passion and excitement) is when I’ve been tempted to settle for less than God’s best or lost my vision for the future.” - p. 188.



II. WHILE YOU'RE WAITING.

A. Pray & fast.

Acts 1:14, “They all joined together **constantly in prayer...**”

Acts 13:2, “**While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting**, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”

B. Hang around visionary dreamers.

“You see things; and you say ‘Why?’ But **I dream things that never were; and I say ‘Why not?’**” - George Bernard Shaw.

Acts 16:6, “**Paul and his companions** (Silas and Timothy) travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia.”

Ed Catmull, *Creativity, Inc.*, “Professor Sutherland used to say that he loved his graduate students at Utah because we didn’t know what was impossible. Neither, apparently, did he.” (p. 16). Cf. Mark 10:27.

Chris Podlich, part of a new breed of Lutheran lay workers blazing fresh trails in church planting. *Beyond Church planting dreams*.

C. Serve something/someone.

Exodus 3:1, “Now **Moses was tending the flock of Jethro** his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.”



III. GET READY WHEN YOU’VE GOT ONE.

Acts 9:10, “After Paul had seen the vision, **we got ready** at once to leave for Macedonia.”

A. Look for companions. “This is where **the ‘we’ passages** of Acts begin. Luke is informing the reader that he had joined the party at Troas.” (NIV Study Bible). We need to include others.

B. Don’t waste time. “at once.” “Just do it” (something)!

C. Be willing to go off your map. “leave for Macedonia.”

Cf. Think of Abraham (**Hebrews 11:8**). Early disciples left everything. **Acts 16:13**, “we went **outside** the city gate.”

CONCLUSION: Martin Luther: *The Tower Experience*, 1519. “All at once I felt that **I had been born again and entered into paradise itself through open gates.**” Luther makes it clear in several places that this, not the Theses, was the pivotal event of his life. **St. Paul’s** visioning day (9/4). **Ephesians 3:20**, “Now to him who is able to do **far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (imagine)**, according to the power at work within us.” **1 Corinthians 2:9**, “What

no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived — the things God has prepared for those who love him.” 😊