

Vision

Looking Beyond The Obvious To Solve Problems In Life

The story is told of two prisoners in one small cell with no light except what came through a tiny window three feet above their eye level.

Both prisoners spent time looking at this tiny window.

One saw the obvious, ugly metal bars, a reminder of the reality, and daily grew more discouraged, angry, bitter and hopeless.

By contrast, the other prisoner looked past the bars to the stars beyond. Hope welled up in that prisoner as he began to think beyond the present reality to the starting of a new life in his future freedom.

Their vision, or lack of vision, made a huge difference to these two prisoners.

Vision is the ability to see possible solutions to everyday problems.

One story that we find in **The Handbook For Life** points towards a person who had vision.

Luke 16:1-8 [Living Bible] *“Jesus now told this story to his disciples: “A rich man hired an accountant to handle his affairs, but soon a rumour went around that the accountant was thoroughly dishonest. “So his employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about your stealing from me? Get your report in order, for you are to be dismissed.’ “The accountant thought to himself, ‘Now what? I’m through here, and I haven’t the strength to go out and dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg. I know just the thing! And then I’ll have plenty of friends to take care of me when I leave!’ “So he invited each one who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, ‘How much do you owe him?’ ‘My debt is 850 gallons of olive oil,’ the man replied. ‘Yes, here is the contract you signed,’ the accountant told him. ‘Tear it up and write another one for half that much!’ “‘And how much do you owe him?’ he asked the next man. ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ was the reply. ‘Here,’ the accountant said, ‘take your note and replace it with one for only 800 bushels!’ “The rich man had to admire the rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the citizens of this world are more clever [in dishonesty!] than the godly are.”*

Although thoroughly dishonest this man used vision to find a solution to his problem.

When this crooked accountant was faced with a serious problem, he did not hide, blame someone else, run to the bottle or jump off a cliff. Instead, he faced the problem and came up with a visionary way to solve it.

Jesus commended him because as soon as he saw his problem, he became solution-orientated.

In life we may seek a solution to a problem, yet it then becomes an impossible mountain to climb.

The disciples of Jesus were faced at one time with such a seemingly impossible to solve problem. They had just seen a respectable, rich, upstanding-in-the-community leader that could not be given eternal life, if he failed, what hope did they have?

Matthew 19:23-26 [Living Bible] *“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “It is almost impossible for a rich man to get into the Kingdom of Heaven. I say it again-it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God!” This remark confounded the disciples. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, no one. But with God, everything is possible.”*

God is infinitely bigger than any problem we have to ever face.

More often than not visionary people find a way, with God's help, to deal with their problems rather than allowing the problem take over their lives.

How does this work in practice?

- 1 Believe what we have just read in **The Handbook For Life**. No problem is too big for God to solve.
- 2 **James 1:5-8** [Living Bible] *“If you want to know what **God** wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he **is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; he will not resent it.** But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to tell you, for a doubtful mind will be as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind; and every decision you then make will be uncertain, as you turn first this way and then that. If you don't ask with faith, don't expect the Lord to give you any solid answer.”*

Claim this promise from our Creator God.

- 3 Meet with other Christians who are solution-orientated for them to share with you how they have solved similar problems in the past.
- 4 List the four or five most possible solutions and in humility, faith and prayer to God start to walk down the first of those possible solutions and trust God to open or shut doors of solution opportunities.

No matter what kind of problem we may have we can find a solution if we are visionary and humbly seek God's help.