

**June 6, 2010 AM**  
**Refocusing Our Vision**

**“Unknown Champions”**

**Judges 3:31; 5:6-7**

Our ideas of living a life of adventure have changed in lifetime. Growing up the life of adventure involved making a difference with our lives, accomplishing a great task, taming the wilds and exploring unknown places. It went to becoming famous as an athlete, movie star or entertainer. Today it seems it is riding an extreme ride for 2 ½ minutes at an amusement park or playing on a reality show or winning at a video game. Wow!

I want us today to be reminded that being a Christian is to live a life of great adventure where sacrifices are to be made, miracles experienced, and great things accomplished.

Now I know we might say, “But I am not a hero; I am Mr. or Mrs. Average.” The good news is that is who God loves. ***“The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war.” (2 Chronicles 16:9, LB)***

Today as we refocus on our vision to reach East Dallas County and Beyond for Christ, I want to see what God did with one average man and how God can use you and I.

## **Our Vision**

“A place where the hurting, the hopeless, the discouraged, the depressed, the frustrated and confused can find: Love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance and encouragement.

It’s a dream of sharing the gospel with thousands in East Dallas County and where our members will grow together in spiritual maturity through our preaching, God’s Word, praising God in song, in partnership in the Gospel as disciples on mission for God.

It’s a desire of supporting missions around our world by giving sacrificially and going on short-term mission trips systematically, while at the same time building a church campus to support God’s Kingdom work in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”

Our vision is not to start a new worship center or change our schedule. That is a TOOL. It’s not to accomplish a goal; that is a desire. It is to win East Dallas County and Beyond for Christ. To live like Christ in such a way that His mission and ministry will be our mission and ministry. I have no desire to be like any other church, including who we have been and specifically who we are. I want to have the Christ life, the Spirit-filled life; the adventure life of a disciple of salt and light changing my world as Shamgar changed his world by the grace of God. Hardly known, barely remembered but a hero in heaven!

It’s my hope that you will join me in this greatest adventure of life!

### **I. The need for modern day Shamgar’s.**

#### **A. God used Moses to bring about the deliverance of Israel from Egypt.**

1. Moses got it. He knew it was not all about him.

2. He organized the people for success.
3. He disciplined men to lead in his absence.
4. He invested in the lives of others.
  - Aaron his brother.
  - Joshua and Caleb.
5. When Moses died the work of God continued. Joshua and Caleb led people into the land of promise.
6. They saw miracles on the same level that Moses did.
7. They dealt with sin and fought hard battles, and knew great victories.

**B. Where there is no leadership, God's purposes fail.**

**Joshua and Caleb did not train up leaders. *"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."***

1. He did not do for others what Moses did for him.
2. He did not pour himself into others at the same level Moses had done for him.
3. How do you know? The Book of Judges.
  - Every man did what was right in his own eyes. ***"In the days of Shamgar...the highways were deserted, and the travelers walked along the byways. Village life ceased; it ceased in Israel..." (Judges 5:6-7)***
4. Joshua dies and it was a train wreck.

**\*NOTE** In the midst of that culture a silent, unassuming man took the challenge to change his world. I don't know why or what was said, but he changed his world by making his life count and stood when no one else would stand and, "He saved Israel!" Can you imagine having God say that about you? "\_\_\_\_\_ saved his culture...her community!"

5. Can you imagine doing something so phenomenal that it delivered a culture or country?
6. We just celebrated men and women who fought to save our nation. If not for them we would be speaking German or Japanese.
7. God is calling for another generation to rise to His call as warriors in this spiritual battle.

Shamgar used an ox goad; a stick with a nail in it. He was a farmer and sheep herder. He was a simple man with simple means. This ancient Al-Queda, the Philistine, haters of God, stood against God's people, ambushing, blowing up everything good and godly.

- Maybe he got tired of waiting for someone else to make a stand.
- Of expecting someone else to do the right thing.
- Maybe he saw the disaster in so many people's lives; abused and misused.

He overcame 600 to 1 odds. A nobody became a somebody, and a culture was changed. He was not the leader of the nation, but a leader in his world.

We need modern-day Shamgar's to rise up in SFBC.

## II. How to be used by God.

### A. Start where you are.

1. You can't start where you are not.
2. He did not say one of these days, when I learn some things.
3. He did not put it off or in his someday file.

We over exaggerate yesterday; we over estimate tomorrow, and we under estimate today.

- You don't know what my life has been like. What people have done or didn't do. I'm too this, or not enough that.

I will never forget when, while I didn't have a future, God had one for me. He was large and in charge; He wanted to empower and transform me. That in Christ I can be a part of the greatest adventure in the world.

4. Listen, "today matters!"

"Seek the Lord while He may be found."

"Today is the day of salvation."

Come now, let us reason together."

You matter. There are some things that if you don't do them they will never get done. I don't get that - how God will not violate free will. Or how He put the proclamation of the gospel into your hands and mine, but He does. I don't understand that, but you matter and today matters

Joshua said, "***Set yourselves apart today so that tomorrow God will work wonders among you.***"

### B. Use what you have to use.

1. Our focus is often so focused on what we don't have that we fail to use what we do have.
  - Did he use a slingshot and five stones? (David)

- Did he have supernatural strength? (Samson)
  - Did he have the mind of a general? (??)
  - Did he draw so many to him that he had to send soldiers away? (Gideon)
2. He did not try to use what others were using. He used what he had because He was who He was.
  3. He had an ox goad. He had a stick with a nail in it.

**Question:**

- Do you have a story?
- Have you been set free in Christ?
- Have you ever been touched by God?
- Do you have an education? USE IT!!!
- Can you say to someone, “God loves you and you matter?”

Listen, many in Sunnyvale, Mesquite, Garland & Forney are watching us. God is watching us.

No one has a better opportunity to help people with life and eternal life like SFBC. We have so many gifted people who are sitting in the stands that need to get out on the field with experience, passion, enthusiasm, who will say let’s do this thing for God.

**C. Do what you can do.**

Ron Dunn used to say, *“Do what you can do, but do that much.”*

1. We are so overwhelmed with what we cannot do.

2. Can you imagine being a disciple and having Jesus say, "Go into the world and make disciples!" Impossible.
3. What they could do is, "Go back to Jerusalem and tarry until the power comes in the person of the Holy Spirit."
4. He gave them two things to do:
  - One impossible.
  - One possible.
5. If I will do the possible, He will do the impossible. God brought the world to them and empowered them.
6. If I do the possible, He will do the supernatural.
7. I want to do everything I know I can do because I want to be the one waiting on God, not God waiting on me. Listen dear church; I believe most of us think we are waiting on God when in fact it is God waiting on us. If you get useable, God will wear you out.
8. I don't want the Lord waiting on me.
9. God has had to pass over a lot of churches that used to burn bright, but he had to move on.
10. I don't think He killed 600 in one day. He just stayed with it and did not give up.

**\*NOTE** We underestimate the promise. "He who is faithful in small things will be given the opportunity to be faithful over great things." He might could have believed that he had killed that many enemies of God. He delivered Israel!

- Do you identify four people, intercede for them, invest in them, and invite them?
- What is the one thing you could do today that would change your life?
  - Give your heart to Christ.

- Give yourself to ministry and missions.
- Give your time to a person who is last.
- Give encouragement to those who lead.

Shamgar means “Listen to God.”

Dr. King’s professor of public speaking said if he did not change his style he would never be heard.

A boy named William was rejected by a girl who said it was not about him, but God had plans for her to be in a world-wide ministry. His name was Billy Graham.

Thomas Edison’s teacher told his parents he could never learn. He was deaf in one ear.

Michael Jordan was told by a coach he would never play varsity basketball.

Rodon was rejected from the art academy three times. “You don’t have what it takes!”

Don’t listen to negative voices, but listen to God’s voice.

- Come to me and I will receive you!
- Call on me and you shall be saved.

- Receive me and I will give you power to become a son of God.
- What I start in you I will finish in you.

If God speaking to you? Salvation...service?