

November 11, 2007

A View From Heaven Deuteronomy 34

Our Leaders have put together a set of Core Values – Values that we hope will drive every activity and every ministry at Chapelgate – When it all comes down to it, they are simple:

The Gospel – Jesus Christ – The Word of God – The Church – Mission

- **The Gospel** is our Driving Message – Good News...
- **Jesus** makes... possible – Ultimate Price
- **The Word of God** is God's Story and the invitation to enter into that Story through Jesus
- **The Church** is a Community of Broken People who have been Redeemed by the Blood of Jesus
- **Our Mission** is to live out the Gospel here in the Greater Baltimore area, and to the World

The hope of these values is concentrated into three words: **Healing – Renewal – Peace**

What this does is give us a template for everything we will desire to be in the future – what we do, preach and build – the ministries we start, drop and keep – who we hire, how we worship and how we reach out.

But why is this important? Plans come and go and change, but Values endure.

What this has done is refocus us:

Community – Small Groups

Healing Ministries – Constantly opening up new opportunities...

Influence – Plant Churches – City/Hispanic & Korean Communities –

Mercy – Opportunities for involvement in the broken places...

In a sense this takes more vision and more money – it isn't as simple as packaging a plan and reducing it to buildings and numbers, which is why these things were done in the first place.

Dennis Hopper – ‘You see, the thing is, your dreams don't retire.’

The One Point: When it comes to the Gospel, Vision always involves **the interaction between an Extraordinary God and Ordinary People.**

Chapelgate – began in 1894 – One Constant – Willingness to Change – 7 locations – 13 pastors – 5 name-changes – all starting with 6 women who prayed...

Moses saw all the land, and he knew the promise that God would give His people of the land, and that He would bless them – but while he was a deliverer for the day, he wasn't the One True Deliverer, and when Moses looked from the mount, he couldn't know that in that little town that would be called Bethlehem this Deliverer would be born.

And he couldn't know that in the hills outside a city called Jerusalem, this Deliverer would die for His people.

He couldn't know that His Name would be **Jesus**.

And yet he did know – not because God gave him a vision of the details of redemption, but because God gave Moses a vision of Himself. That is the vision God gives to His people – a view of Himself – one so real and compelling that His people yearn to serve Him in whatever way He leads.

Deuteronomy 33:7 – “Here, O LORD, the cry of Judah; bring him to his people. With his own hands he defends his cause. Oh, be his help against his foes!”

What Israel – and we – needed was not a deliverer who would die – but a Deliverer who would die and then rise from the dead – **Jesus**.

Hebrews 3:5-6 – “Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.”