

Dawson Trotman's Vision

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I. Introduction.

II. Vision.

A. Originally that God might be glorified in every area of his life. Then that a club would be used to evangelize the city. Then to win men to Christ and to get them under way. Finally being in contact with many men, he sought to see them practice what he taught them throughout the world.

B. His vision was that he tried to help men reach maturity in Christ.

III. Does the speaker share the same vision?

A. Not the identical vision.

1. He does not have all Trotman had.

2. He is not presently ready for it.

3. But God can do greater things than Trotman dreamed of.

B. No one knows what Trotman would do today under today's circumstances.

C. The responsibility is not to discern what Trotman would do for the ministry but to press on to what God would have for the ministry.

IV. Three things for the ministry. (Acts 6)

A. Prayer.

1. "There are four things necessary for the ministry: prayer, prayer, prayer, and the Word." (Colossians 4:12)

2. It is impossible to recruit men without prayer. Moses asked for a man and received Joshua.

3. Prayer is a primary responsibility of the ministry.

B. The ministry of the Word of God.

1. The goal is also to get every Christian in the Word.

2. One of the primary things that draws people to the Navigators is that they teach lay people how to get into God's Word.

C. A focus on developing men.

1. This was an interest in a certain kind of men - of good repute, full of the Spirit and wisdom.

2. We could all use a new vision in our hearts to fashion people - not programs and people.

3. Men were selected by Christ for administration but on a spiritual basis to build men.

4. Can you be happy with the kind of a life that leaves no programs but only men?

5. Working with people is our crown of rejoicing, not organizations, ministry models nor one's name.

Application questions.

1. What is the present vision for the ministry based off of? Why are these elements essential?

2. How does the present ministry vision for the Navigators reflect the vision of its founder Dawson Trotman?

3. Trotman used to ask people, "Where is your man?" What are you doing to develop men into the maturity of Christ? What can you do?
