

**Life Group Notes**  
**Sunday 07 October 2018**

**Speaker:** Sean Green  
**Series:** Purpose, Culture, Vision  
**Title:** Vision Sunday  
**Passage:** Hebrews 10-12

This was the last Sunday in our mini-series reminding us of our unchanging Purpose, our GRACE culture and our Prophetic Narrative (the story and images we sense God is using to lead us over coming years).

**HEART:** As God gives us ‘*Change of Use*’ on the building He wants it to be a sign of His desire to ‘*Change our Heart*’ and prepare us for the coming season.

**HARVEST:** We also sense God is telling us to get the harvest sickle ready, to position ourselves for a significant harvest of souls. It’s as though we’re to be both spiritually broody and pregnant;

**TREE:** We will become a landmark tree by which people find a way. God is going to graft in branches of similar stoned fruit, whose leaves are different but share our purpose and culture.

**BEES:** People will come to us to find the nectar of the Gospel and leave with the pollen of GRACE. Like Bees coming and going from a tree in blossom, so men and women will be coming and going, a giving and receiving of ministries.

**BACK TO THE HEART:** God wants to fit us out with Gospel Love. Be warned, Gospel love is demanding; it always involves suffering, it will narrow your life and broaden your soul. Gospel Love sees life shaped like a J-curve, beginning with life and then going down to death (with hope) and then upward to resurrection, a J-curve. Those who follow Jesus need to reset life expectations when we understand how Gospel love works. Gospel love moves us: first to being a donor, then a redeemer and then an incarnational-redeemer:

- **Donors** help and love from a distance but with little risk to themselves.
- **Redeemers** love from above, they own the problem. The weight of the other person’s life falls on them. They use their influence and resources to care. They bind themselves to the person, at great risk to themselves.
- **Incarnational-redeemers** love from the inside. They give up their lives for another, suffering loss, at complete risk to themselves. They enter into the pain of others.

This prophetic narrative will be costly in at least two ways: Firstly, we still want to raise an additional £89k to meet our Vision Fund target of £500k by end of the year. This coming Sunday is a gift day as is 21<sup>st</sup> October. Secondly through us adopting these costly prayers:

- Ask God the Father to show you the ‘lostness’ of your community (and allow yourself to identify with the Father’s anguish).
- Ask the Holy Spirit to change your heart with gospel love.

**For discussion:**

Gospel love narrows your life and broadens your soul ... explain the J-curve.

Gospel love moves us to be Donors, Redeemers and Incarnational-Redeemers ... explore this idea.

Pray these two prayers over each other, that they sit in your souls.