

Sermon Title: **Mission and Vision**

Bible: Matthew 28:19-20 & Romans 12:1-2

Where & When: Sunday Service at Gilroy UMC on June 2nd, 2019

Audience: about 35 English-speaking Church Members

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, you love us first. And we love you. Your love changes us all the time. We want to love your children in Gilroy. And we want to see what you see. Please guide us, and open our eyes and ears. Please hold my lips in your love and grace! In Jesus' name. Amen.

1. Jesus' Life

I prepared this sermon about the Vision Team Task Force we are forming, in order for us to be on the same page, and on the same paragraph. Last year, our church had WIG, our Wildly Important Goal, which was 25% increasing of church participation. This year, we will have a Vision Team Task Force. And I want us to pray for this all together first.

Please do not be surprised; “Deep Deep Down In My Heart, Deep Down In My Heart. Do you love my Jesus? Deep Down in My Heart. Yes, I love my Jesus!!!”

I love Jesus so much! Love changes me all the time! I would like to share the timeline of Jesus on earth. When Jesus was about 34 years old, Jesus died on the cross. After 3 days, He arose. After resurrection, for 40 days, Jesus appeared to His

disciples, including doubting Thomas. And then, He went to up to Heaven. After 10 days, the holy spirit came to the disciples, and the church was started.

2. The Great Commission - Mission of the Church

Before His Ascension, He left us one Great Commission, which is what we read in the Gospel of Matthew. It is the same as the mission of the church. The mission of the church is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” The church means not only pastors, but also church members. In other words, to make disciples of Jesus Christ is your mission, and my mission -- our mission.

3. Vision/Direction of the Church

To carry out our mission, we need our own direction. I want to discover our own vision. We do not need to copy other churches. We do not need to compete with other churches. We are good enough. But I want us to be better, because we are not done yet. We still have time, energy, passion, and love. And I want to go forward. But we need to find our direction. The direction is more important than speed. Now I know where our church is. But my wife needs more practice. First, we needed to put our church address on the Google map or GPS. Then, my wife starts to drive. It is okay to go to the wrong way, because GPS guides us with new ways. Sometimes it takes more time than I expected. I become grumpy Hwapyoung. But this is okay,

because we know where our place is, and where our church is. I do not want my wife to drive to another church. Our own direction is what we need.

4. Discover God's Vision

It is not easy to discover God's vision for us. I use the word "discover" on purpose. That's because we cannot make God's vision. If we make it, it is not God's vision, but our vision. And I believe that God already has a vision for us, that we have not discovered yet. God established this church in 1853. God has sent you and me to this church. God still loves this church. I know that the vision of 1853 is different from the vision of 2019 and 2020. But just as our predecessors did, we love God. We love each other. We love Gilroy.

To discover God's vision, God's direction, we should ask ourselves many questions, and we should pray, and we should listen to each other. We need your prayers, your love, and your presence.

But above all, we should ask; "Do we have the desire to hear God?" "Do we really want to be disciples of Jesus Christ?" "Do we really want to be a living sacrifice?" Easier said than done. To be disciples of Jesus Christ, and to be a living sacrifice is not easy. It can be self-denial. It can be Yes to God, but No to Us. It is not to lose who we are, but to transform ourselves. After my wife came to this church, my wife and I learned this; "Happy Wife, Happy Life!" And I am

practicing “Yes Dear!” to my wife. At first, I did not want to change myself, because I was picky and stubborn. But it is not to lose who I am, but to discover more of myself. With my love, with my wife’s patience, we can make “Happy Wife, Happy Life.” I hope that I am going in the right direction.

5. Vision Team Task Force

In order to set up our goals for 2020, we will have Vision Team Task Force. I hope to have two lay leaders for this vision team task force. I will be the first and the best servant. Two lay leaders and I will be 3 co-chairs. We will talk together with all of leaders and share ideas. We will be humble and patient, because there is God’s timing, and because many times God may have spoken through others and in our dialogue. I pray to discover God’s vision toward us, Gilroy United Methodist Church. Can you pray for this church and this vision team task force?

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, we love our church. We love each other. We love Gilroy. Please guide us to listen to you, Lord. We want to serve this church and Gilroy. Please let us be humble to you and each other. Please lead us to discover your vision toward us. In Jesus’ name. Amen!

Possible Qs.

1. Do you have the desire to hear God?
2. What vision do you have for your church?