

Union Methodist Church

2025 Theme:

**“A fruitful church that makes and nurtures
disciples who make disciples of Christ”**

Matthew 28:18-20

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost,

August 31st, 2025

Sermon

Holy Spirit Power for Our Times

Part 10:

**Write The Vision,
Run & Persist With It**

1. Write Down Your God-Given Vision

Divine vision shown = revelation

**“Where there is no revelation,
people cast off restraint; but
blessed is the one who heeds
wisdom’s instruction.”**

Proverbs 29:18 NIV

1. Write Down Your God-Given Vision

“Then the Lord answered me
and said:” **Write the vision
And make it plain on tablets,
That he may run who reads it.”**

Habakkuk 2:2 NKJV

1. Write Down Your God-Given Vision

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.” Habakkuk 2:3 NKJV

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

Joseph & His Brothers

- Takes time: Often must mature first
- Beware of discouragement
- God's enemy (the devil) is against you and uses people
- ...

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

“Now his brothers had gone to graze their father’s flocks near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph” Genesis 37:12-13 NIV

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

“As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them.” “Very well,” he replied.” Genesis 37:13 NIV

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

“So he said to him, “Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me.” Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.”

Genesis 37:13 NIV

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

“But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. 19” **Here comes that dreamer!**” they said to each other.” Genesis 37:18 NIV

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

“Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.”

Genesis 37:20 NIV

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

“So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing”

Genesis 37:23 NIV

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

**“and they took him and
threw him into the cistern.
The cistern was empty;
there was no water in it.”**

Genesis 37:24 NIV

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

“As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead.” Genesis 37:25 NIV

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

**“Judah said to his brothers,
“What will we gain if we kill
our brother and cover up
his blood?” Genesis 37:26 NIV**

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

“Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.” Genesis 37:27 NIV

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.” Genesis 39:1-2

2. Beware the Vision/Dream Killers

“The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.” Genesis 39:2 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” Matthew 16:13 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” Matthew 16:14 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“But what about you?” he asked. **“Who do you say I am?”**

Matthew 16:15 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“Simon Peter answered,
“**You are the Messiah,
the Son of the living
God.**” Matthew 16:16 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.” Matthew 16:17 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Matthew 16:18 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:19 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.” Matthew 16:20 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders,” Matthew 16:21 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

Matthew 16:21 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

“Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

Matthew 16:22 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“Jesus turned and said to Peter,
**“Get behind me, Satan! You are a
stumbling block to me; you do not
have in mind the concerns of God,
but merely human concerns.”**

Matthew 16:23 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

“Then Jesus said to his disciples,
“Whoever wants to be my
disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross and
follow me.” Matthew 16:24 NIV

3. Be Focused, Like Jesus

1. Write the vision
2. Stand on God's Promises
3. Focus - on the Divine Vision
4. Imitate God
(Participate in God's Nature).