

# Creating Space to Flourish

Vision 2023: Part 2

Sunday message from January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

~ Notes & Reflections ~

- **Mission (our “what”) is timeless and does not change. Vision (our “how”) is timely and may change.**
  - ❖ A church’s vision has its basis in Scripture and is also informed by current culture, gifts of people in that local body, location, etc. Vision answers the question, “That does it look like for us to follow Jesus now?”
  - ❖ Read [Jeremiah 29.4-7](#). What timely vision did God give to the people of Israel during their time in exile? How did following these commands of God affect them? How did it affect those around them?
- **Your spiritual formation is not just for yourself alone.**
  - ❖ “Spiritual formation is the process of being formed in the image of Christ for the sake of others.”  
~ Robert Mulholland.
  - ❖ Have you experienced this “formation for the sake of others”? If so, what did it look like? If not, what do you think it would look like?
  - ❖ How might this “for others” aspect affect your formation process? What would it look like for you to be more aware, even intentional, about allowing your formation to affect others?
- **More is not always better. This is true even in discipleship.**
  - ❖ Maybe being formed by love (the work of Jesus in our hearts) is actually beautifully slow.
  - ❖ What is your experience of the “slow work of God”?
- **Every year, we want to call all of us to three specific practices that will guide our year as a church.**
  - ❖ This is our “how” for 2023. These practices will shape us as we create space to both increase our awareness of God’s love for us and also to love others.
  - ❖ Engaging with God → Rhythm of Sabbath
  - ❖ Journeying Together → Rhythm of Sharing the Table
  - ❖ Spreading Hope → Rhythm of Honoring the Image of God in All People
- **Rhythm of Sabbath**
  - ❖ Stopping from work to remind us that we are not what we do.
  - ❖ Countercultural practice to become more aware of the rest God offers.
  - ❖ How do you understand Sabbath? What is the purpose? How might a rhythm of Sabbath form you?
  - ❖ What might it look like to take a small step toward practicing Sabbath this week?
- **Rhythm of Sharing the Table**
  - ❖ Finding unhurried space to be in proximity with others, allowing love to flourish.
  - ❖ What could Sharing the Table look like for you (and your family)? Consider the examples Nate offered: regular rhythms of small group, hosting dinner guests in your home, dinner or coffee out with others, etc. to learn about each other and share your stories.
  - ❖ What might it look like to take a small step toward practicing Sharing the Table this week?
- **Rhythm of Honoring the Image of God in All People**
  - ❖ God created mankind in His image, instilling dignity and worth in all people with no gradations.
  - ❖ How might this affect our conversations ([Luke 6.43-45](#)), actions toward people around us, service, etc?
  - ❖ What might it look like to take a small step toward practicing Honoring the Image of God in All People this week?