



## Minding the Gap – June 2017

A Faith and Work Publication

Welcome to *Minding the Gap*, a monthly thought about faith in the workplace!

### "Ants in the Pants"

So, take this expression of “ants in the pants” and create a mental image. Not very pleasant...I'm thinking of fire ants - their aggressive behavior and what it would be like to have them in my pants - yikes and ouch! Our pastor, in a recent message spoke about **doubt** and its place in our faith experience. He quoted author Frederick Buechner as writing: *"Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith...they keep faith awake and moving"*. This for me is a great word description of the potential **doubt** can play as we seek to follow Christ's teachings and example.

In Matthew 28:16-20 the author records this: *"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; **but some doubted**. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been give to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" Just imagine what the disciples were thinking and feeling after what had just happened to them around the crucifixion in their commitment to further the teachings of Jesus. The horrendous experience of seeing their leader nailed to a wooden post and being mocked until his final breath! I'm afraid I would have to be counted as one of the "some doubted".*

In my work experience there was a time when I had submitted my resume for the position of Vice President of Student Affairs at a local college. It was down to one

other person and myself - guess who came in second? Yes, t'was I! I had prepared so long, hard, and thought I had it 'in the bag'. I had plans for what I believed would be a new and good direction for the division; it matched the mission statement of the college, and, in my mind, it certainly would have furthered God's kingdom. I was crushed and in **deep, deep doubt** about my abilities as an administrator for leading. Thankfully, I had my wife and a number of friends/colleagues who encouraged me to 'hang in there and remain true to my vision'. I did, and a short time later another opportunity presented itself to carry-on what I believed God would be having me do.

This is all to say that in our daily work we are bound to have experiences that cut to the bone of our belief about what God is having us do; that create confusion, questions and **doubt** around our purpose. This doubt may be around a broken relationship, around a failed goal, around a dismissal from a position, or whatever else that creates doubt of what and how you should be doing your work. Just remember in this struggle God does not abandon us..."Remember I am with you always, to the end of the age."...Yes, doubt is just another ant sneaking around in the pants of your faith experience "to keep your faith awake and moving".

Blessings! Jim Grubs

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