



## Minding the Gap - August 2014

A Faith and Work Publication

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

### "The Myth of Certainty"

Recently, I've been reading *The Myth of Certainty* by Dan Taylor, the speaker planned for September's Faith & Work Gathering. In it, he discusses the importance of us being **reflective** people of faith or **Christians**. Dan observes: "*The reflective person is....a question asker - one who finds in every perspective and assertion something that requires further investigation*". The question this brings to us as people of faith is: How does this play out with the truth of Scripture? How do we apply Jesus' statement of "I am the way, the truth and the life", when someone says something that seems contrary to this? Such as: "We're going to beat that company to market with our product" or: "We're going to sue the pants off those people!"

If we are, at once, to be both people of faith and effective at our work, I am convinced, we must live in the life-long tension of certainty and risk, and this is where we find ourselves in faith. A passage, which might be helpful for living in this tension is Hebrews 11:1&3: "*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen...By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.*" For me, this validates a key understanding I have come to that truth comes to us from a number of realms. "**Normative truth**" is truth which comes from fact, something proven logically or experimentally. "**Historical truth**" is the truth which is found to be valid through tradition and community over the eons. "**Experiential truth**" is truth which one knows from personal experience. And, "**transcendent truth**" is that aspect of truth which God's spirit gives to us through Scripture.

Each one of these **truths** has its place and must be taken seriously if we are to be effective at work. We become more effective because we respond in reflection and "wonder" rather than contradiction, recognizing that God, the creator and source of all truth, is somewhere in the 'mix' (present) in our discussions and decision making. Reacting with inquiry recognizes and validates the other person - her/his significance and sacredness. However, rest assured, it is this "**transcendent truth**" which gives us the confidence and well-being that God brings harmony to all matters of life. Blessings as you strive to risk each day for the Creator's sake!

Blessings to you in your work,

Jim Grubs

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