



Minding the Gap - March 2014

A Faith and Work Publication

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

“The Ol’ WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?)”

Many years ago when the acronym WWJD was so popular, I found it to be at once a challenge and a "burr under the saddle". One could even purchase a bracelet with this acronym, but I declined to do so. I'm not sure why, but probably because I found it too challenging to have this acronym continually staring at me from my wrist. Well, the answer to 'What would Jesus Do?' is probably best found in His initial teachings, "The Sermon on the Mount" (Matt 5-7). These three chapters are loaded with insightful perspective and practical admonitions of how one's heart and mind needs to function if we are to find success in accomplishing Jesus's agenda for his cherished world.

Within these teachings is the prayer, which He tells us to say when we do pray (Matt 6:9-13). And, a most notable and challenging phrase within that prayer is: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This phrase according to N.T. Wright (one of today's leading scholars for interpreting scripture) completely goes against the mindset of most Christians which would be our present life is to be endured in a manner which allows us "to live happily ever after", for eternity in heaven with Jesus. But actually the challenge is to work to bring about the character and qualities of the "kingdom of heaven" to life here and now. And yes, according to N.T. Wright - Christ, in His life, death and resurrection, has ushered in His reign as the "king of creation". How He accomplishes that is no different than His intent in Genesis 1:28 where he commands Adam & Eve to: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the earth." His design as Wright says: "Jesus rescues human beings in order that through them he may rule his world in the new way he always intended."

The challenge is then before us. As "coworkers with Christ" (2 Cor 5:20), what might our places of employment look like if we are to bring in the character and qualities of God's kingdom? This is not just a rhetorical question because work is a place where we spend approximately 2100-2500 hours each year of our working lives. Thus, it would seem an ideal point of effort to influence such critical organizational elements as purpose, policies, benefits, processes, etc. to reflect the character and quality of God's design. Here again, there is no better place to base this endeavor than "'mining' the instructions" Jesus gives to us in His Sermon on the Mount - just read it and think about it.

Blessings to you all!

-- Jim Grubs

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