



Minding the Gap - March 2015

A Faith and Work Publication

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

"Is It Time to Reframe Our Minds?"

During this time of Lent, I've been drawn to two sources. One of them is Richard Rohr, a Franciscan friar, who has a wonderful gift of written expression. He directs the Center for Action and Contemplation, Albuquerque, NM.

Here's a recent thought from Fr. Rohr in his daily meditation. Rohr (with help from an eleventh century theologian) in a certain manner, **reframes the divine act of the incarnation**. He puts it in a different light when he says: "...the incarnation of God and the redemption of the world could never be a mere mop-up exercise in response to human sinfulness, but the proactive work of God from the very beginning. We were 'chosen in Christ before the world was made,'(Eph.1:4). Our sin could not possibly be the motive for the divine incarnation, but only perfect love and divine self-revelation! God never merely reacts, but always supremely and freely acts, and always acts totally out of love." Rohr concludes with emphasis, "*Jesus did not come to change the mind of God about humanity (it did not need changing)! Jesus came to change the mind of humanity about God.*"

I am likewise completely convinced this is the challenge before us for our work posture with co-workers - whether or not we have direct responsibility for them. We, as humans and recognizing God's love for people, will find great goodness and satisfaction in viewing one another as objects of delight rather than problems of "human sinfulness".

Practically speaking, let's look at some possible attitudes and behaviors we might apply; the former CEO and author, James Autry, suggests:

- BE AUTHENTIC - This is particularly meaningful in times of crisis or loss. It enables people to bond more deeply, and organizations are people. Note the authenticity & transparency of Jesus throughout his ministry with those around him.
- BE VULNERABLE - This requires courage, but many believe it is the key to interpersonal connection. As strange as it seems, admitting mistakes or showing care is actually a sign of strength - that you have no need to 'hide' yourself. Bottom-line, there is no greater example of vulnerability than the incarnation of God in Jesus. (Phil 2:5-8)
- BE ACCEPTING - Key to acceptance is to focus on **ideas** rather than **personality**; then you'll find 'personality quirks' easier to negotiate. Acceptance actually facilitates the resolution of interpersonal conflict. (Jn.8:7-11).
- BE PRESENT - Here's a challenging question: "How often do you think you really listen to people and hear both the words they're saying; as well as, the feelings they're trying to convey?" Jesus on the road to Emmaus hears the wonders of the two men, as well as the "questions of their hearts"(cf:Lk24:13-34)
- BE USEFUL - There is no greater act than for one to lay down her/his life for the other(cf:Jn 10:14-15). Sound familiar? Your role as a co-worker or leader is to be of service to others or as one person as put it "It's not about what you do, but about what other people do because you are there".

Blessings in your continued faithful endeavors!

- Jim Grubs

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