



Minding the Gap - January 2015

A Faith and Work Publication

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

"Just Try It...You May Be Surprised"

I know from time-to-time in this endeavor, we have written about the importance of just **being**, and resisting the temptation to always be **doing**. However, when it comes to the ways of Jesus, there is credibility and extreme significance in the doing aspect of life. In the gospel of John, Jesus makes the statement: "*The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me.*" (Jn5:36). Essentially, Jesus is saying don't believe what I say is true because I say it, but know it's true because you see me doing it. Author, Richard Rohr, writes about this: "The longer I have tried to follow Jesus, the more I can really say that I no longer **believe** in Jesus, I **know** Jesus. I know him because I have often taken his advice, taken his risks, and it always proves itself to be true! Afterward, we do not believe, we know. Jesus is not telling us to believe unbelievable things, as if that would somehow please God. He is much more saying to us, 'Try this' and you will see for yourself that it is true. But that initial trying is always a leap of faith into some kind of action or practice."

Most organizations (manufacturing, service, educational, profit & non-profit, etc.) have a purpose or mission statement - this is who we are and how we do it. While it is an extremely important document to have, it also can be a very challenging statement to make true. This is so because anyone working in the organization or being served by the organization is always wondering how s/he can know the statement to be true; they're looking for actions that demonstrate the reality of the statement. A number of years ago, I worked for an organization that had such a statement. Part of it 'spoke' of the critical importance of each coworker - that each member was vital to the organization's success. At

one point in its history, the organization encountered difficulty with its finances and its CEO informed the members they would not be receiving a compensation increase. However, it became known that the Board of Trustees voted for the CEO to receive, it was believed, a 10% increase. The CEO accepted the recommendation. Well, through the CEO's action, the coworkers came to *know* the mission statement to be - not true. OUCH!!!!

Once again, the challenge for us as people who have staked our lives on the teachings and works of Jesus, is to look at our organization's purpose statement, and then ask what might I **do** (what action might I take) so my coworkers know this statement to be true? Naturally, the statement must contain ideals that are congruent with Jesus' teachings - and most do. If it doesn't, perhaps that explains some discomfort you experience? I am convinced the actions you take to make true your organization's purpose will go deep to the hearts of coworkers and create an energy and trust that benefits not only the organization, but even **God's** organization - oops, I mean **Kingdom!**

Blessings to you in your world of work.

- Jim Grubs

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