



## Minding the Gap – May 2017

A Faith and Work Publication

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

### "The Power of 'Yes!' "

The other day when I read Richard Rohr's meditation on the place of the word "yes" and its accompanying mindset, I was reminded of what an important role that plays for our work and it's environment. Allow me to quote extensively from what Rohr wrote. As you read it, please do so carefully and perhaps read it twice:

*"The great wisdom teachers and mystics say in various ways that you cannot truly see or understand anything if you begin with a no. You have to start with a yes of basic acceptance, which means you do not too quickly label, analyze, or categorize things as good or bad. The ego or false self strengthens itself by constriction, by being against, or by re-action; it feels loss or fear when it opens up to subtlety, growth, change, and Mystery. Living out of the True Self involves positive choice, inner spaciousness, and conscious understanding rather than resistance, knee-jerk reactions, or defensiveness.*

*It is not easy to live this way. It often takes a lifetime of contemplative prayer and honest self-observation to stop critiquing everything. Once you have learned how to say a fundamental yes, later no's can be very helpful and are surely necessary. But beginning with a fundamental yes is the foundation of mature nonviolence and compassionate action."*

I have learned that in any situation where you are challenged with a problem to solve or a task to accomplish, the importance of asking yourself and your work colleagues "What are the **possibilities?**" almost always results in a lot more energy and potential! Indeed, it does require more time and the loss of control on your part, but the 'end product' can be so much better. I am reminded of an experience at my work where we had a manufacturing issue of significant impact. It was causing major production slow down which the engineering department couldn't rectify. Then they said '**yes**' to the possibility of what a **line worker** thought might be the solution to the problem, which the highly knowledgeable and qualified engineers don't normally allow. 'Voila' it worked and the place was ecstatic - most notably the line worker!

Now, the wonderful validation and confirmation of this view is Paul's teaching in II Cor. 1:19 when he states: "*For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you...was not 'Yes and No', but in him it is always 'Yes'*". For us, as people who place our confidence and trust in Christ, this is great permission to saying "**Yes**" to the people and their ideas with whom we work. And also please remember, the Spirit of God who abides within us will serve as a Guide for our "Yes" to be not just affirming but likewise wise.

Blessings! Jim Grubs

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