



## Minding the Gap - November 2013

### A Faith and Work Publication

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

#### **"Scarcity or Abundance"**

I am humbled by how often I approach life with a scarcity mentality. Yes, everything from food to gas, from tickets for a movie to not quite enough money at the end of the month, from getting the best bargain to receiving recognition for work I've accomplished -- it's not quite enough. All this seems to fly in the face of Jesus' statement: "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." (Jn. 10:10-NRSV). Isn't He promising abundance rather than not enough?

I believe our mind-set may well be the same in our work place. I'm guessing we occasionally think: "I can't share this information because someone else may use it and get the credit" or "There's only room for two more people on that team and I'm afraid I may not be one of them" or "I can't believe so-and-so got that promotion and I didn't." So Lord, where's the abundance in all of these instances? On the other hand, how often have we experienced success and still felt dissatisfied---that something is missing? Could it be as Thomas Merton said that we spend our whole lives climbing up the ladder of supposed success but when we get to the top of the ladder, we realize it's been leaning against the wrong wall?

Could it be that the abundance or fullness that Jesus speaks of happens when we begin to view our work as opportunity to embrace those with whom we work. We might want to consider giving ourselves to: help co-workers develop their potential; consider working to remove barriers which keep them from being successful or simply consider listening well, thus validating and "walking beside" them in their challenges and failures.

I wonder if in so doing we won't begin to realize what Jesus meant when he said: "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." And, when we do reach the top of our ladder, we will be pleased to see we've climbed the right wall.

Blessings to you,

Jim Grubs

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