



## Minding the Gap - April 2016

A Faith and Work Publication

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

### "The Unusual Treasure"

I'm guessing that in your life you've discovered a "treasure" in a place or circumstance that you least expected. You've discovered something, which initially you thought was 'no big deal', but turned out to be a very 'big deal'. This may have happened to you personally, as a group, or as a member of a larger organization. Take for example a recent example within Major League Baseball. It comes from the Colorado Rockies and their rookie shortstop, Trevor Story. Yes, Story recently hit his 7<sup>th</sup> homerun in only his 6<sup>th</sup> major league game - not only a rookie record but also a Major League record for anyone at the beginning of the season!!! From what I understand, Trevor was a good player in the minor leagues but nothing outstanding. He played the majority of his 5 years and 500+ minor league games at the "A" level ("AAA" being the top); batted .263 (.300+ is the goal). A "hidden treasurer"? - it's too early to tell for the long-term, but right now the Rockies baseball team and its fans sure consider him an **unusual but real treasure**.

This is all to illustrate that what you hold as dear to you, **your faith in Christ's life and teachings**, is really an **unusual treasure!** The principles, convictions and values which Jesus taught and lived did and do not often win the popularity vote. Nor are they, in business or organizational life, the sought-after approach. **BUT**, they have as Luke in Acts states: "...turned the world upside down."(Acts 17:6). You seldom encounter a business that regularly sacrifices profit for service; or, an organization that seeks out the soft-spoken, self-effacing leader instead of the dynamic, high-profile charismatic leader. Speaking of a group wanting a high-profile, dynamic leader, what about the disciples and their expectation or hope for Jesus to be that kind of a leader? A messiah who overthrows the

Roman occupation! How'd that work out for them? And yet, it was the very event of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, which changed the standard for living forever! Talk about an **unusual treasure!**

An amazing fact of this **treasure** - its principles, values and practices - is that they are held, as Paul says: "in clay jars (*us- you & I!*)" ---"But we have this treasure in clay jars..."(2Cor.4:7). We are the 'containers' of these truths and this way of living. You may not be the dynamic or high-profile leader you believe you need to be to effect change or good (or maybe you are), but a great theme of Scripture is that it's seldom the case. Consider *Abraham*, an unknown, and God makes him the father of a nation. *Moses* who wanted no part in speaking to the pharaoh, freed Israel from Egypt. *David* who was Jesse's youngest and a shepherd becomes the ancestral root of Jesus. Most of all *Mary* the mother of our Savior viewed herself as a "humble servant" (Luke 1:48). As Richard Rohr says: "The pattern always seems to be that 'the last will be first, and the first will be last' (Matthew 20:16). This is so consistently the pattern that we no longer recognize its subversive character."

So, be sure to take heart in knowing you are the '**clay jar**' who holds the **unusual treasure** of Jesus' teaching which changes the hearts and minds of those with whom you task daily!

Blessings to you in your world of work.

- Jim Grubs

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