



Minding the Gap – February 2018

A Faith and Work Publication

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

Your Worksite & "Thy Kingdom Come"

As you read this month's "Minding the Gap" you may think "I've read this before". In part you did because I wrote about the idea of organizations as "agents" of reconciliation back in April 2014. As the years have passed I've become even more convinced of the deep need for this concept, "**Thy Kingdom come**", to be believed and practiced in the places we work so that our coworkers can, at least, begin to experience the qualities of our Creator's kingdom - peace, kindness, hope, forgiveness, etc. (cf:Gal. 5:22). So, have you ever thought of **your place of work as an 'agent of reconciliation'**? - I know in the past I haven't. If not, what if you did? Could it be when in John's gospel the writer says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son"(Jn. 3:16) that a part of the 'world' He gave His Son for was your place of work?

Theologian Jitsuo Morikawa makes the observation: "But today, more than in the past, the fate or welfare of human life is powerfully affected by the institutions of society; in fact, the future is being largely shaped by these economic, political and social institutions of our culture; so that the role of institutions, the moral and social accountability of institutions, becomes perhaps the number one agenda in our historical enterprise." (Jitsuo Morikawa, theologian & writer).

Morikawa makes a very poignant and challenging point for we folk who work to integrate the teachings of Jesus into our daily lives. Again, could it be that as we go to our worksites, the Creator who 'walks beside us' ("And remember, I am with you always until the end of the age" Mt.28:20) sees our organization as a **means** of giving people significance; as an **agent** to motivate persons to reach their full potential; as a **community** which brings about healing and hope for individuals; or as **team of co-workers** who demonstrate that they care for each other beyond monetary gain? I have the strong conviction the answer is "YES".

Now, doesn't this make sense and seem strategic that our Creator can use organizations "as agents of reconciliation" because, after all, we do spend the better part of our waking lives within a free enterprise, educational, social service or faith organization. At one time when I was working, I had a colleague who made the statement "God loves Landry Cycle" (retail bike shops in Boston, MA), and thus he worked to implement God's values into their organization. It has indeed made a significant impact on the coworker and customer lives of that business.

So, as you enter into your place of work, may you know of God's **presence in** and **commitment to** your organization and to you as 'agents of reconciliation' to help bring into the experience of coworkers some of the key elements of His kingdom such as hope, compassion, grace and the ultimate experience of **shalom** or **well-being!**

Blessings to all!

- Jim Grubs

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