



Minding the Gap – May 2018

A Faith and Work Publication

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

This Changes Everything

If we but take a few moments to reflect, we recognize the current social and political "atmosphere" is loaded to overflowing with change, doubt, distrust and general negativity. The result seems to be a withdrawal...withdrawal from trust, from risk, from reaching out to engage people and places in need. The Anishinaabe tribe describes our 'condition' in this manner, "You have two wolves residing within you - the '**wolf**' of love and the '**wolf**' of fear - be careful as to which one you feed". These days people seem to be feeding the wolf of fear. In the face of all this it is important, *no vital*, to remember who we are - much of which is played out in our attitudes and actions at work.

To this N.T. Wright (one of the most respected biblical scholars by many) writes beautifully. Wright essentially says, God has come to us in Jesus; has shown and taught us the way life was meant to be lived (containing: truth, love, grace, compassion, forgiveness, etc. Gal 5:22). Jesus's message and life were in stark contrast to what people then experienced - and yes, not too dissimilar to our milieu today. Jesus's entire life demonstrated these qualities; even in his trial and execution. His premise and perspective can be summed up from II Cor. 5:17-18: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed

away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."

However, God in His resurrection of Jesus (victory over the finality of death) "shouts out" that what Jesus has taught and lived is indeed the key to life. His life, death and resurrection changes everything! What Christ has done is a **fact** and a **promise** that one day all of creation and the art of living will replicate what Jesus has brought to us.

Wright has a great way of explaining this. He writes around the word "happen". He captures who we are in Christ in using the words '**happened**', '**happen**' and '**happening**'. He states in his book *Simply Good News*: "This was the good news, according to the Bible...Something **had happened** (life/death/resurrection of Jesus). Something **would happen** (in the end, all of creation/life will live in harmony). And in between, something powerful and mysterious **was happening** in the lives (this includes you and I) of all those who found themselves caught up in it." This is what happened, and because of it **everything is forever different!**

I write about this because in our current societal circumstance it is vital we have people - you and I, who live out the '**something powerful and mysterious**'; who live in the 'happening realm', bringing hope to folk around us. Because so much of our time, talents and energies are expended where we work it becomes the logical place to begin and continue the powerful and mystical "happening" of the good news - the Gospel. We know the needed "ingredients". Now we are simply challenged to mix them into our hearts and actions.

Blessings!

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