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“Leadership is the art and science of inspiring others to reach their full potential in the pursuit of a common vision”

Dr. James Bultman

Today Reference



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How Deep a Pile of Grace You Standing In?

A TCL E-Leadership Resource

Luke 17:3-5 "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him." The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we^a have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

I want to write today about how you manage mistakes. In my last article I told you about a major mistake of mine so today let me help you think about yours. You may not even want to think or talk about it, but it is a very important part of understanding leadership. Your awareness of where you stand before God is of more value for your own leadership progress than anything you learn from a dozen leadership books. I would go as far to say that your future leadership depends on your reflection and study of yourself. Here are three things to think about.

1. The mistakes you have made and how God has treated you.
2. The mistakes you have made and how your earthly leaders have treated you already.
3. The mistakes others have made and how you are treating them.

I think everyone would agree that mistakes can be a result of sin, but every mistake is not a sin. Since I am sure you would agree that sin mistakes are worse than simple errors, it is important to see how God has responded to ours. In our first passage above the disciples could not believe that when someone committed a sin mistake against us, we were to respond with a grace that was virtually unlimited. It did not make any sense to the disciples then, and it certainly would not make sense to many leaders we know today. Our theology of leadership is not one of unlimited mistakes. This is speaking more about the heart than can forgive every time than command to overlook everything. After all God does not instruct us to overlook everything. In 1 Cor 5, the consequences were severe when Paul instructs the church to "expel the wicked man from among you" NIV.

A sub point of our second scripture is that God is gently telling us that he is accepting us IN SPITE of us standing in a pile of mistakes. The "grace in which we now stand" begs a question and an answer. The question for today is "how deep are you in?". Do you believe God accepted you when you were ankle deep or when you were in over your head? The fact is that we were all, and still are, in over our head. There are leaders who realize this and there are leaders that think they are ankle deep. How deep you and I think we are will ultimately reveal how we handle and manage people.

Another world of mistakes that is relevant is the world you grew up in and the world of mistakes you live in now. I cannot write nor comment about how your childhood has shaped your view of mistakes. I do suspect some leaders probably need to be counseled as a result of their history. Maybe a few of you should think about that.

A few years ago I met with a pastor prior to presenting a seminar at his church. He told me he won't do another thing because of the beating he took on a rather simple decision. He told me his church had become graceless. Places where leaders are wounded probably precede environments where "people shoot their wounded". It can become a vicious circle.

Early last August Google admitted it made a mistake and shut down its highly promoted "Wave" email network. As far as I can tell no one got fired and they did not have a need for someone to "pay the price". Many have heard of the Google environment where brainstorming and mistakes are encouraged. It does not matter whether they understand the theology of their graceful environment, nor whether their leaders are Christian or not. It helps the company succeed because *grace is truth*.

So how deep a grace pile do you think you are in? Are you up to your knees up to your eyeballs ... or in over your head? Would your heart toward the mistakes of others be the same depth as the pile you think you are in?

I challenge you to think about it.