



Sermon Excerpts:

“The Sacredness of “I Don’t Know””

January 09, 2022

More Gracious Leadership Principles and Practices Sermon Series

According to Eric Law, “gracious leadership is the ability to use skills, tools, models, and processes to create gracious environments (Grace Margin) within which mutually respectful “relationships” and the discernment of the “truth” across differences.”

“Leadership for this context is making a difference in the lives of people around you in a productive way. Leadership is both inspiration and perspiration.”

James 4:13-15 *“Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”*

If you think that you know the will of God for your life... you are probably in for a very rude awakening, because nobody knows the will of God for his/her entire life. -Elisabeth Elliot

“In a crisis, we tend to look for the wrong kind of leadership. We call for someone with answers, decisions, strength, and a map of the future. Who can make hard problems simple? We should be calling for leadership that will challenge us to face problems for

which there are no simple, painless solutions; problems that require us to learn new ways. —Ronald A. Heifetz”

- An effective leader has the courage to act on convictions during a crisis or challenge.
- A leader will be interested in promoting the welfare of all alongside of his or her own well-being.
- Being a leader, one will be neither angry nor dogmatic.
- A leader refrains from telling others what they should do and focuses on regulating self.
- A leader respects the opinions of others but knows the difference between responsible and irresponsible thinking and acting.
- A leader functions with well-established beliefs or principles.

Certainty means there is nothing else you need to know or learn about. Certainty does not allow for that element of surprise, the unexpected, and delight in discovery. Too much certainty blocks our imagination, innovation, or creativity.

It stifles our curiosity, our desire to explore or to change our minds. Our beliefs become fixed and unless some uncertainty drifts our way, we can remain chained to those unwavering thoughts that may be outdated.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (MSG) “*I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work. My plans are not your plans. My ways are not your ways says the Lord. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my plans than your plans.*”

The Sacredness of “I Don’t Know” helps us to identify:

- God does things differently than we do. God works on a different thought level. God works on a different time level. God works in a different technique level.
- We should always remain open to God's interruptions.
- In my experience, God has rarely worked in a linear pattern. In an arranged straight or nearly straight line progressing from one stage to another in a single series of steps...