Accepting New Vision

“For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it.”  (Job 33:14)
The Five Levels of Leadership

Personhood
---RESULTS---
People follow you because of who you are & what you represent

People Development
--REPRODUCTION---
People follow you because of what you have done for them

Production
---RESULTS---
People follow you because of what you have done for the organization

Permission
---RELATIONSHIPS---
People follow you because they want to.

Position
---RIGHTS---
People follow because they have to
Leadership Advanced Skills

- Accept New Vision
- SMART Plan
- Analytical Listening
  - Listen to the end
  - Analyze & Connect
- Focus
- Motivation
- Self (Time) Management
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Evaluate Yourself

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What is a vision?

• Ability of a leader to form a plan for the future
  – simple picture of a possible future
• Picture of a better future for an organization,
  – informed by the principles of Scripture,
  – supplemented by divine communication in
    one form or another.
• Comes in the context of Bible study, prayer, and reflections and meditations.
  – St. Pachomius: monastic communities (Cenobitic life)
  – Observation, envisioning, supported by
    divine communication.
Accepting a vision

- First step for a leader to advance
- NOT blindly accepting every idea and thought that is presented

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Apply Logically

• Does this vision make sense?
• Can one logically think through it?
• 28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, “Which is the first commandment of all?”

• 29 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the L ORD our God, the L ORD is one. 30 And you shall love the L ORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

Analyze the passage...
Apply Logically

- He reasoned the vision in his mind.
  - He concluded that Love is the first commandment and is achievable.
  - He compared Love to the sacrifices.
- The Lord commended his reasoning.
- Do not blindly follow the vision, but logically reason its importance and achievability.
  - “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 Jn 4:1)
Characteristics of the Advisor

- Who is the advisor who is presenting the vision?
- What is his role?
- Why is he credible?
Exodus 18

17 So Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “The thing that you do is not good. 18 Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself.

19 Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. 20 And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. 21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.
Exodus 18

- 22 And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. 23 If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace.”

- 24 So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. 25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. 26 So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves.
Characteristics of the Advisor

• Analyze the passage...
• Moses first analyzed logically that the vision fits the situation.
  – He reviewed the source of the vision.
  – He understood that this is a form of divine communication.
• Having “tested the spirit” of the vision, he accepted and implemented it.
Current Situation

• Does this vision apply to this current situation?
• Does it apply to this situation, or perhaps it would complicate the situation.
• “And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye?” (Matt 7:3-4)
• Is the vision good?
Current Situation

• The Lord did not criticize the vision itself, nor discourage it, and he gives the remedy:
  - “Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” (Matt 7:5)

• The vision is sound, once the person first removes the plank.
Expectations

• What is the outcome of this vision?

• Moses’ expectations from Jethro’s vision?
  – Positive…
    • The people will get their issues resolved quicker
    • They will not be standing all day waiting for Moses
    • Sub-judges will gain experience (people development)
    • Moses will have more time to attend to other matters
  – Negative…
    • Moses will be removed from first-hand interaction
    • He may not get to hear all the details,
    • Some decisions made differently.

• All expectations are to be reviewed and measured
Practicality

- Can this vision be practically implemented?
- Transfiguration on Mount Tabor.
  - “Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said.” (Lk 9:33)
  - How is it possible to provide shade for the Lord?
  - How would one build a tabernacle for a spirit and a prophet who never died?
  - How long will it take to build? How?
Practicality

- Strike a balance between challenging the vision recipients, without letting them feeling hopeless about attaining it.
- Find a point of intersection between people's confidence and skepticism.
  - They must feel that your vision is both bold enough to be worthwhile—even inspiring, and yet probably, or at least possibly doable within the current situation. Some who doubt will hang around to see if it happens. Others must embrace the vision as fully doable and pitch in to accomplish it.” (McCallum)
Timing

• Is this the right timing for the vision?
• How long will it take?
• What timing challenges will the vision face?
• Two issues:
  – A leader may think that the timing is right (or not even consider the timing) and rush to execute the vision
  – He may think it is the wrong time, and disagree with God’s timing.
Rejecting God’s Timing

• Spies to Canaan (Numbers 13)
  – Caleb: “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.” (Num 13:30).
  – Others: “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.” (Num 13:31)

• The people not only rejected the timing, they rejected the entire vision and the leadership of Moses:
  – “…Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” So they said to one another, “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.” (Num 14:1-4)
Rushing

- Nehemiah waited for four months before the timing was right for his vision.
- Nehemiah learned this lesson of waiting for the right time.

  - When he entered Jerusalem: “So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem;” (Neh 2:11-12)
Accepting a vision

- First step for a leader to advance
- Follow the ACCEPT technique

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