

“TEAMWORK”

2018 Adventure Camp – Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness, Colorado

Date: Thursday, August 2, 2018

Location: Backcountry

Theme of Study: Teamwork

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Introduction:

“A Sense of a Goose”

Next fall, when you see geese heading south for the winter, flying along in “V” formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in “V” formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone – and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Finally – and this is important – when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunshot, and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies; and only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group.

(If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand with each other like that.)

A 2nd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul, by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen,
Author unknown, pp. 307-308.

The Word of God also speaks frequently about the value of working together.

The Value of a Friend

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: V9 “Two *are* better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.

V10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him *who is* alone when he falls, for *he has* no one to help him up.

V11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm but how can one be warm *alone*?

V12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him, and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

In the backcountry – having others to help us in an emergency might make the difference between life and death.

“The Bundle of Sticks”

A certain man had several sons who were always quarreling with one another, and, try as he might, he could not get them to live together in harmony. So he determined to convince them of their folly by the following means. Bidding them fetch a bundle of sticks, he invited each in turn to break it across his knee. All tried and all failed; and then he undid the bundle, and handed them the sticks one by one, when they had no difficulty at all in breaking them. “There my boys,” said he, “united you will be more than a match for your enemies: but if you quarrel and separate, your weakness will put you at the mercy of those who attack you.”

Union is strength.

The Book of Virtues, by William J. Bennett, Simon and Schuster Inc., 1993, p. 388.

Spiritually speaking – good friends can help us too.

A lesson about teamwork from draft horses

Draft horses are muscular horses that are used by farmers to help till the soil, and pull heavy things from field to field. One single draft horse can pull about 8000 lbs. But when you put two draft horses on the same load, they don't pull twice their own weight, they can actually pull three times their own weight, 24,000 lbs. The sum of the two horses together vastly dwarfs the production that the individual horse may achieve on their own.

We can accomplish more if we work together. There will be a number of tasks that need to be accomplished throughout the Adventure Trip: tents will need to be set up, food will need to be prepared, dishes will need to be washed, supplies will need to be placed in bear-proof containers and stored away from our tents, fires built, water filtered, and many other tasks. If we all jump in and pull our weight we will have a much more enjoyable trip.

The bigger picture is this: Let's work together to help each other on our path to the Kingdom. Let's encourage our friends to do the right thing. To keep their focus. It only takes a few good men and women to accomplish great things!

Daniel 12:3 “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.”

Proverbs 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.”

With God's help we can make a difference in the lives of others. And when we do, God will bless us for it. We have been called to a life of service. Do we serve God and our fellow human beings?

James 5:19 "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,

Galatians 6:1-2: V1 "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. **V2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Overtaken – means to be caught off guard, perhaps at a vulnerable point. Such a person needs to be approached with *gentleness*.

Considering yourself lest you also be tempted – One restoring a fallen sinner can *be tempted* to fall into sin. That danger is well worth *considering*.

Suppose we see someone overtaken in a trespass. How can we apply God's thinking to our relationships with other people?

God says if we are spiritually minded we are going to go about trying to restore that individual, "considering ourselves lest we also be tempted."

Being spiritually minded means asking ourselves if what we are about to say or do with regard to that individual is something that is going to help produce eternal life for him or her. If we see someone with a fault, and our basic interest is helping, serving and seeing that person obtain eternal life, then we should go ahead and try to help them. But if it's not – if it's anger, or superiority, or disgust, or anything like that – then be careful, because perhaps we have no business interfering. We must just get out of the way, and let someone who is spiritual step in and try to help.

God is spiritual. If we are spiritual we think the same way God does, have the same purpose He has. And what is that purpose? God is interested in sharing His life, enlarging his family, bringing us all from this human plane to the God plane where we can live forever with Him and share what He has to share. That's His interest. That's His motive and intent. That's why Jesus Christ came and died.

If we have any other purpose than that, and claim we are spiritual, then there is something wrong with our thinking. Because everything God is doing for us, and has done, is being done with the purpose in mind. God wants us in the kingdom and our brothers and sisters too.

So, when we see our brother overtaken in a fault – we should ask ourselves: "Do we really seek his good? Are we concerned about his eternal life? Is that why we are getting involved? If we

can answer yes to these questions, and have this as our overriding purpose, then we can go ahead and help point our brother in the direction that leads to life!

James 5:20 “Let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

I Peter 4:8 “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’”

The *covering of sins* – is an image for forgiveness. **Psalm 32:1** states: “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”

A good New Testament example of this is found in – **Matthew 18.**

Matthew 18:23-33: V22 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

V24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

Ten thousand talents – was an enormous sum. A denarius was one days wage for a laborer (**Matthew 20:2**). A talent was worth about six thousand denarii. Then thousand talents would be sixty million day’s wages, a sum that would be impossible to repay. Jesus was graphically portraying this man’s hopeless predicament. (It is the same predicament we all find ourselves in spiritually – as we all have sinned.)

V25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

V26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’

V27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

V28 But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

V29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’

V30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.

V31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

V32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.

V33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’

V34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

V35 So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

This parable reiterates the principle that we should forgive others, because God forgives us. If our forgiveness should be in direct proportion to the incredible amount that we have been forgiven (**v. 22**), then we must always be willing to forgive – **FROM THE HEART!**

Paul learned the art of dealing with all different kinds of people. With God’s help he was able to positively influence people from all walks of life.

I Corinthians 9:19-23: V19 “For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

V20 And to the Jews I became a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law;

V21 To those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law;

Paul ***made himself a servant to all, that he might win the more*** – Around those who ***under the Law*** – the Jews – Paul obeyed the law. Around those who were ***outside the Law*** – the Gentiles – Paul did not observe Jewish custom. Let anyone misunderstand he always sought to obey all the laws of God

V22 To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

V23 Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.”

God is pleased when His people work together while showing love and respect for one another. In fact, Jesus Christ said that this was a defining characteristic of His disciples.

John 13:35 “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Love is the primary characteristic God is developing in His children. It is a necessary prerequisite to entry into the Kingdom of God. It is more important than knowledge and understanding. It is far more important than prophecy. It transcends even faith – without which it is impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**). It is the very best gift of the Holy Spirit. Paul placed love in its proper relationship to all the other gifts, talents and abilities which a Christian could possess.

I Corinthians 13:1-2: V1 “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

V2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

Love is at the heart of the gospel message. It is a message of outgoing concern; it is the Church's gift to the world; it is an expression of love. The gospel of the Kingdom tells of a better way of life, a way of peace and harmony, and of a better world to come. It is a message of hope.

Love transcends everything! We are Christians if we have received God's Holy Spirit. Even if you have not yet been baptized you've been set apart and God has extended a calling to you. In either case we should be producing fruits in our life. The fruits of the Spirit.

Let's work together to make this the best Adventure Camp ever! And let's work to help others to attain an entrance into the Kingdom of God!