

## thought for the week – the undisciplined pursuit of more

I feel like its been a little while since the last Thought for the Week has gone out – life has been pleasantly hectic in our household , with the recent wedding of our daughter Lindsay. The plans and activities of that great day kind of pre-empted my writing for a while. As you can understand, in special seasons like that, you basically have time to do the priorities and no more.....

As you have probably gathered, I am going somewhere with this train of thought. The demands of the last couple of weeks called for discipline in the pursuit of some very specific goals. In each of our spheres of leadership influence, we seldom have time to do much more than focus on the key priorities for the day or week before us. However, many of us in our pursuit of accomplishing much wear ourselves out with a frenetic pace, getting nowhere.

Diane and I have some friends who have a Springer Spaniel who goes by the name of Linus. He is a most entertaining dog. Jim and Leanne say he can spend hours frantically chasing bugs, shadows or the glint of sunlight off of Adams Lake. While this dog throws all of his energy into these pursuits, he accomplishes little more than creating entertainment for those watching him. His is what might be called the “undisciplined pursuit of more”

Jim Collins in his book “How the Mighty Fall” notes that this ‘undisciplined pursuit of more’ is another one of the key indicators of an organization’s downward spiral to failure. He reminds us, in that regard, “more often than not, it is overreaching rather than complacency that creates a problem.” Simply put, we can stretch ourselves too thin pursuing every good idea, or every meaningful activity regardless of how it relates to our core values, or our passion or whether or not it distracts us from our core competencies.

There is an account in the life of Jesus that illustrates this. In Luke 10:38-42, we find Jesus visiting at the home of Martha and Mary. Martha, as the stereotypical hostess is running around doing much in preparation – while Mary simply sat and visited with Jesus. Her actions created no small concern for Martha who indignantly brought this to Jesus’ attention. Jesus response, if you’ll excuse the paraphrase, went something like this: “ Martha, you’re wearing yourself out by doing a lot of unimportant stuff. Mary has discovered the one important thing that needs to be done right now. You should do the same”

Now I suspect there is a little of Martha (or Linus) in all of us. Today, find the important things, and do them with excellence.

Have a great week

Dave

Dr. Dave Demchuk  
President,  
Summit Pacific College  
From Learners to Leaders....Stewarding our Future

