

SeLD 7203 -- KEEPING THE TEAM UNITED AND ENGAGED

IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY

Pr. Billy Biaggi -DMin

July 09, 2020 -- 9:00 am – 9:50 am

INTRODUCTION:

We are living special times in the history of our world. The prophecies of the Gospels (signs of the end) are quickly fulfilling (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21) and the Lord advised us: "When these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your head, because your redemption is near" (see Luke 21:28). These may be emergencies and crises that will increase, but nothing should distress us if we look at the Lord Jesus (Hebrews 12: 2), who specializes in "driving/pilot" in the midst of storms and grant us the peace that our hearts need (Matthew 11: 28-30). Yes, the Lord offers us to deposit all our troubles in him, and in return, he wants to grant us a peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4: 6-7).

Today we will continue analyzing ways, how to fulfill the Mission that has been entrusted to us (in emergency and crisis situations), with commitment and keeping the team together.

1. LEADERSHIP = TEAMWORK:

a. Follow the principles of Teamwork: (There are many models that suggest different processes and principles of teamwork. Here are some suggestions, which you can apply to your own reality and service environment)

1. Get to know each other among the team members:

- a. Qualities (of each team member),
- b. Talents,
- c. Weaknesses and
- d. Values

2. Establish effective leadership: role of the leader:

- a. Initial Orientation Phase
 - i. Exposing the problem or situation
 - ii. Set the Objectives / Goals
 - iii. Prevent needs
 - iv. Establish the Method or Program to follow
 - v. Assign tasks and responsibilities
 - vi. Build trust
 - vii. Request cooperation and collaboration

- viii. Indicate the control / evaluation indicators
 - ix. Drive/initiate action.
- b. Organization and development phase of the activity
 - i. Share Information
 - ii. Build commitment and trust
 - iii. Global vision-be aware of everyone's role
 - iv. Encourage participation
 - v. Solve Obstacles-avoid confrontations
 - vi. Promote a pleasant work climate
 - vii. Always keep the final objective in mind
 - viii. Motivate progress
- c. Control and Evaluation Phase
 - i. Summarize conclusions and agreements
 - ii. Make decisions and achieve results
 - iii. Measure and monitor results
 - iv. Enhance the feeling of achievement
 - v. Celebrate and recognize achievements
 - vi. Learn from mistakes
 - vii. Thank the collaboration
 - viii. Document the assessment

3. Boost Communication:

- a. Establish adequate means of communication
- b. Make the team listen and give feedback
- c. Be willing to change and establish joint strategies.
- d. Establish an effective and daily communication system.
- e. Create a quick communication system for new events and an adequate feedback system

4. Know how to prioritize tasks:

- a. Properly rank priorities
- b. Define the qualities of each employee
- c. Avoid conflict of priorities according to each employee,
Integrate them into the decision that clarifies those priorities.

5. Solve the problems Here and Now:

- a. Act quickly when conflicts arise
- b. Identify the nature of the inconvenience and measure the consequences
- c. Cite the entire team to fix immediately:
 - i. Discuss the specific problem
 - ii. Clarify expectations of the situation
 - iii. Build consensus among all team members before making the right decision

6. Put Enthusiasm at Work:

- a. Enthusiasm spreads (as do pessimism too)

- b. Identify setbacks, obstacles and frustrations and enthusiastically support the team in solving them.
 - c. Approach tasks with an optimistic attitude.
- 7. Take advantage of Diversity:
 - a. A homogeneous team can operate efficiently, but without much innovation. Take advantage of diversity.
 - b. Choose team members with different personalities and interests
 - c. Encourage the sharing of values and a common commitment, in accordance with the established mission
- 8. Create a sense of Belonging:
 - a. We all have a need to feel part of something
 - b. Develop a common identity
 - c. Similar to the First to know each other and set common goals for which it is needed to set values.
 - d. Help each team member be aware of their impact and contribute to the team
 - e. Establish teamwork rules: Magic words of how to treat each other with respect, Generate ideas, Collaborate, Respectfully accept the ideas of the majority, Maintain adequate tone of voice
 - f. Involve all members in decisions
 - g. Encourage feedback of ideas and opinions.
 - h. Be flexible to implement changes or team strategies
- 9. Cultivate Relationships:
 - a. Encourage healthy and open-minded communication relationships
 - b. Friendly and open relationships stimulate teamwork, harmony and encourage the generation of ideas
 - c. Involve everyone in decision making and sharing their opinions.
 - d. Encourage feedback of ideas, which will facilitate changes (if necessary) and team strategies.
- 10. Reward Team Achievements:
 - a. Celebrate group successes (and timely recognize individual work that stands out).
 - b. Congratulate and thank the work done and ponder the role of each one
 - c. Be open to constructive criticism and suggest corresponding changes and solutions involving the team

2. UNITED TO CHRIST

- a. Love (1 Corinthians 13)
 - i. Personal devotion to God every day (Prayer, Meditation, Study of the

- Holy Scriptures). God is eternal. His love does not change (1 Cor. 13: 8).
- ii. Know the Lord and love him, because God is love (see 1 John 4: 8):
 - 1. John 17.3 - Knowing him is Eternal Life.
 - 2. E.G.W. And to know him is to Love him-DTG:

“Only by love is love awakened. **To know God is to love Him**; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world’s dark night, the Sun of Righteousness must rise, “with healing in His wings” (Malachi 4:2)” (Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages, p. 22:1).

b. Integrity

- i. Words vs. Experience (living what we preach) ("Being the Sermon").
- ii. You are what you do (Leader goes ahead demonstrating union with Christ)
- iii. Everything you do counts (Then do what is correct, what is good, in the name of Jesus) (Matthew 5:16)
- iv. Follow the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12). Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- v. Character is the Key. - Integrity (Union with Christ).
 - 1. “Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His Church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own” (Ellen G. White, Christ Object Lessons, p. 69.1)
 - 2. “It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.” (Ellen G. White, Christ Object Lessons, p. 69.2).

c. Daily consecration:

- i. Spend time daily praying, meditating, and studying the scriptures. MORE in times of Emergency / Crisis.
- ii. Psalms 5: 3: “O Jehovah, in the morning you will hear my voice. In the morning I'll present myself in front of you and I'll wait”.
- iii. Ellen G. White:
 - 1. **“Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be: Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me and let all my work be wrought in Thee. This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for**

that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus, day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ." (Ellen G. White, Steps to Christ, 70.1)

- iv. Emergency and Crisis situations (storms) DO NOT take the Lord by surprise but induce us to allow him to intervene and direct our lives and our Church in the fulfillment of the Mission.

3. COMMITTED AND FOCUSED IN THE MISSION

a. Loving the souls:

- i. **Philippians 2: 5-8** Let there be in you this same feeling / attitude / Love
 - 1. Jesus followed His Father's will.
 - a. "I cannot do anything by myself; as I hear, so I judge; and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my will, but the will of the one who sent me, that of the Father "(see John 5:30).
 - 2. Imitate Jesus. Pablo said:
 - a. "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ" (see 1 Cor. 11: 1).
 - 3. To love as Jesus loved: "I give you a new commandment: That you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (John 13:34).

b. Loyalty to the Lord - fulfill the mission

i. Like Daniel: FAITHFUL, LOYAL, COMMITTED.

- 1. Daniel 6: 4: "Then the governors and satraps were looking for an occasion to accuse Daniel regarding the kingdom; but they could NOT find any occasion or fault, because he was FAITHFUL and neither corrupt nor negligence was found in him".
- 2. Luke 16:13: "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will esteem the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth "
- 3. Matthew 28: 18-20; Mark 16: 15-18: "Therefore go and preach the Gospel ..."
- 4. In times of emergency and crisis, we need with greater dedication to exercise loyalty to God.

4. SERVING THE LORD IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY AND CRISIS

a. Extreme Dedication (when facing emergency and Crisis-Personal decisions)

i. Matthew 21: 28-32

- 1. Parable of the 2 sons:
 - a. "Go work in my vineyard today" (Matt. 21:28)
 - b. "I do not want to-but then, repented, he went" (vs. 29).
 - c. Invited 2nd. Son -said YES - but went NOT" (vs. 30).

- d. "Who did your Father's WILL do?" the first" (vs.31).
 2. Know the Lord
 3. Respond to HIS invitation - **Isaiah 6: 8** "Whom shall I send and who will go for us? (Father, Son, Holy Ghost) = Emergency / Crisis.
 4. "HERE AM I, SEND ME."
- b. **Remove the Obstacles** (when facing emergency and Crisis).
- i. **Luke 18: 18-30** = What must I do to obtain eternal Life? (Young & Rich)
 1. Obey the commandments
 2. Remove the obstacles
 3. COME FOLLOW ME. (He left sad. He could not prioritize Jesus).
 - ii. Wealth was not the problem = see **Luke 19: 1-10** -Zacchaeus-rich, returned 4 times more (example: instead of 10,000, gave each: 40,000) and half of the goods to the poor, and FOLLOWED JESUS - Salvation has come to this house - "Because the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost" Luke 19:10)
 - iii. The problem was the LOVE for Money, instead of LOVE GOD: What distracts us TODAY? We are in Emergency / Crisis = MUST FOLLOW JESUS! Let nothing distract us and tie us to the things of this world.
 - iv. Says the Spirit of Prophecy: ***"There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time. But we are not ignorant of his devices. It is possible to resist his power. When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come".*** (EGW: R&H, March 22, 1887. -MYP 133)
- c. **Three orders in case of Emergency** / Crisis: (Indications of Jesus for the end time). In the greatest adversities and tribulations, allow the Lord Jesus, through HIS Spirit, to take control of life and lead us to a safe harbor. His promise: that he will be with us to the end (Matt. 28:20).
- i. **Watch: (Mat. 24:42) "Because you DO NOT know what time he will come":**
 1. Awake and watching, (end is near).
 2. 10 Virgins fell asleep, and ALL woke up (see Matthew 25: 5-7). But how many were prepared? (next step)
 - ii. **Be Prepared (Mat.24.44): "It will come at the time you DO NOT think":**
 1. Who is faithful and prudent? (v. 45) so you can feed on time
 - iii. **Keep on serving (Matt. 24:46): Blessed, so that when the Lord comes, He will find him doing so: SERVING UNTIL the Second Coming!**
 1. "Well done, good and faithful servant; You have been faithful over a few things, I will put you over many things; enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matthew 25:21). AMEN