



Chronicles of Diversity

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Metis Economics: Time to lead

When I was four or five I had a friend named Donnie. Donnie had a method of getting his way by pounding his head on the floor. When he did this, his mommy would run over to him and say, "Don't do that Donnie, what is it you would like?" And of course she would then give him this desire.

It's amazing how we learn from examples. After seeing this work a number of times, and how beneficial it was not only to Donnie, but to me, I made the decision to try it out on my mom.

What a learning experience that turned out to be. So much so, that I can still see the picture in my mind. My mother was at the kitchen sink peeling some vegetables for dinner, and I decided there was something that I wanted. After stating this pressing need, I followed it with the ultimatum, "If I don't get it, I will pound my head on the floor!"

It worked for Donnie, it sure didn't work for me. I remember

my mother looking over at me briefly, and then turning back to finish peeling the vegetables. So challenged in my power, I carried out my threat. Until it began to hurt, and then it hurt a lot, and then I stopped. Never to try that adventure again. She never looked at me at all in my self inflicted pain.

By the time I was in high school I was amazed at my freedom. Compared to virtually everyone else, I had no rules of conduct, save one general law. When it came to family matters and events, you would be there, and you would contribute, and you would not complain. My dad was of such size, that these modest rules were never challenged, hence that was all the discipline I needed.

If we had to leave for church at 8:30 Sunday morning, that meant that 11 PM was about the limit of your Saturday night escapades. Like wise, if we were doing something Saturday as

a family, it would start even earlier. Going to school, when your dad always saw everyone as they came through the door, especially after the first bell rang, pretty much eliminated those behavioral problems also.

What I was learning was the difference between power and authority. This was reinforced as a Commissioned Army Officer in one of my former lives. As an officer, you were given the authority of the United States government, but your power only came by leading those under you. If you were to carry out your given mission, your underlings would have to do the work and more importantly, they would have to do the work with enthusiasm. This meant you needed to communicate your orders in a manner they could understand and accomplish.

Jesus said: **“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”** (Matthew 28:18)

Donald Trump thinks that he has both power and authority over the players in the TV game “The Apprentice.” But you see how limited this whole thing really is, because, “You can’t fire me, because I have chosen not to play your game, or even watch your show.”

Pastors think they have power over their congregations, because they claim a power that even Jesus did not claim. When they wonder why things don’t work out as they planned, they consider that the people are just like stupid sheep, when in reality what is really being evidenced is a lack of leadership. They are treating their people like sheep. It’s applied prophecy in action.

Mere Christianity, as opposed to religion, even the Christian religion, is about giving all power to the individual without manipulation. You can argue the truth of the “bondage of the will,” and election on and on, but the point of the gospel is that, by the acceptance of Christ’s propitiatory sacrifice you become a truly free eternal personality. You can become what you were created to be. Isn’t that an awesome gift.

When you know your identity comes directly from God, you really don’t care much what Sir Donald, or Pope Bill, or Bishop Tom, or even

Pastor Sam has to say about how you run your life, provided you know God is in control. You may walk down a dark alley if you like, but you are ultimately responsible to understand if this is God’s path, or your own. All anyone can do is advise you of your pending peril from their secure vantage point.

But to change the emphasis, if to use contemporary evangelical jargon, if you walk with God, both you and your leadership are, by definition, on the same page. The point of effective leadership being, not only in church but in business, is get out of the way and let your people do their job.

Going back to that ancient Chinese engineering principle we talked about a few weeks back. “You want it done your way, you better do it.”

In this line of thinking, the most perverse concept available, is that you are to do your job the way the Divine Leader would do it if he had the time. Again in evangelicalism, you don’t need to check your WWJD bracelet. Jesus calls people and not only gives them the authority, but also to use their own power to carry out His commission. If the whole thing doesn’t seem to be working something, by definition, is out of whack.

And this problem comes down to insecurity. The question is whether it is your insecurity or someone else? If the problem is with resources, then within the constraints of a dying world, the problem exists with your leadership, withholding authority, typically because of a misallocation of power.

If the resources are present, then bucco, the problem rests with you. “You are nothing but a lazy rotten coward.”

“I am waiting to see which direction the will of God, might desire me to take.” seems a whole lot more satisfying. People treated like sheep, think this comment makes them humble, but then again how can they learn if they never face an impossible challenge.

The will of God, as set out by Jesus in the Bible is quite clear. Build a church community, by making disciples. Now how do we do that?

First we need a Bible study, then a church building, then some equipment, then a staff, then some revival centered marketing program, and then they will come and sit like good sheep, and pay our salaries, so that we can enlarge our program and have more Bible studies. Just what any good Bible Teacher could envision.

But what does that really mean in practice? I recently heard a Christian business man excitedly explain how God is enlarging his business. Now his well meaning goal was to give his profits to God's work, without strings attached. Now who could argue with such a worthwhile desire?

Not only does that happen in church, it happens in the world also, by leaving a legacy to humanity and the arts. We all desire to leave a legacy in the world and the human community. We want our life to count for something greater than ourselves, because we were created in the image of God.

The problem is that in order to have a strong organization, you need an organizational plan first. In business school they call it a business plan. After some practice most leaders can keep much of this in their heads, because of the cool nature of life, once your plan is complete it is out of date. But still the sheep, I mean the unique eternal personalities, need to be kept abreast of these hourly modifications.

Going back to our benevolent, businessman. You can not run a multi-division multi-million dollar construction business successfully with a crew of dedicated tradesmen. You need a management plan, by which you create a management structure, by which the growth is managed. As the default leader you need to be a big enough person to allow others to do their current job and to train them for the jobs you know that you will need dedicated people to handle, or you need to hire people with the skill to do the things you and they can not. These people will demand the authority and the power to carryout their newly created tasks. You must be secure enough in the whole concept to allow these new comers to do their new jobs. Not an easy transition for someone who only feels totally secure in pounding nails or herding sheep.

We have thus far not used the word that is the antithesis of insecurity. That word is

delegation in the true sense. In other words you need to give your authority to your deputies, to use their power to solve the problems, manage the growth, and not feel obliged to be limited by your limitations.

There is a term called a power meeting, sometimes a power lunch. In essence this is where Sir Donald tells you how powerful he is and how his vision is so great, and how you are so lucky to be part of his team. This power flows down hill, as each in turn shares his vision of his, or her power trip, until we come to such a place everyone has lost complete contact with the real world.

If this is a power lunch, then everyone eats an over priced entrée, deemed to be power appropriate. Then everyone goes back to their office, closes the door and admires their power, while the casinos slip into bankruptcy. Because after all failure, doesn't rest with us, but market conditions, which still don't allow us the appreciated power we deserve. Not enough sheep and too few nickels.

Now the moral of this little parable is when you are five years old you will learn the effects of pounding your head on the floor. If you learn your lesson that selfishness doesn't work very well, by fifteen you might be making a few selfish decisions that are for community good. If, however, you still always get your way by that pounding behavior, you will be well on your way to thinking this parable is about you.

By the time you are twenty five most of us have learned that very few people care at all if we pound our head against the floor for any reason, and we begin to make some more mature pounding decisions. We also know that if we are going to endure the pounding pain, we want to see some results for our headache. These results normally must include some community aspects if they are to merit at least some attention, properly received or not.

Beyond the twenty five point people pretty much have given up on pounding their head anywhere, because there is no way of ever getting anyones attention for anything, and they become stupid sheep, at least in public.

This, so called adult role, is the function of leadership, that must be translatable even to five

year olds and human sheep. This parable is about you.

Converting stupid sheep into functioning unique eternal personalities really isn't science, its all about showing visibly that you care. Walking the talk is not a blasé saying, it must be done with daily strides. It is as simple as listening to what your people are saying or not saying. Real sheep are always bah, bah. Human sheep are inhumanly mute.

The best way to get people beyond the bah, or the silence, is to talk to them over a time of fellowship, as equals, with a meal. Over a meal it is quite easy to keep bringing the conversation back to, "What's really eating on you now?" Once you get beyond the head pounding pain, most of the time you will find that their contributions to the community are not accepted, or even acknowledged.

While in the Army, an enlisted man shared with me his experience of meeting a great general. After being ushered into this great man's office and being shown where to sit. After the enlisted man was made to feel as comfortable as possible in the situation, this general got up from behind his huge desk and sat in an adjoining chair. They discussed the reason for the meeting without any deference to rank, just two people trying to do their job, or calling, to the best of their ability.

This, to this enlisted man, was the highlight of his life. For reasons still unknown to me, he willingly shared that special portion of his life. Perhaps he thought I might learn something from it. I did, and to this day consider it a tremendous gift that I too cherish.

People are people, and when we stand before God, our rank, real, or self appointed, will not matter in the presence of the Great General and the King of Kings. But the point of the gospel is that Jesus will get up from behind his big desk and come and sit in the chair next to us and say, "This is why I ask you here, I want your opinion on this?"

At these eternal times, power and authority become one. This is how Jesus has built His church from creation till this day. This is also the reason that organizations and churches today are ineffective. The desk, the pulpit, or more specifically our perceived personalities always seem to get in the way.

Other articles in this Phylogenesis Series:

Liquidity with purpose; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/liquidity9-29-4.pdf>

Bortled Liquidity; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/bortleliquid10-6-4.pdf>

Fakin it; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/fakin10-13-4.pdf>

Natural Energetics; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/naturenergy10-20-4.pdf>

Political Energetics; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/poleenergy10-27-4.pdf>

Reasoned Phylongeny; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/reasonphylogd11-3-4.pdf>

Sasquatches & Polar Bears; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/sasbears11-10-4.pdf>

51-48 gas; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/51-48gas11-17-4.pdf>

Show me; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/showme11-24-4.pdf>

A cheap plot; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/acheapplot12-1-4.pdf>

Cheesy Cows; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/chessycows12-8-4.pdf>

Raurbs versus Apgars; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/raurbapgars12-15-4.pdf>

Metis; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metis12-29-4.pdf>

The Complete (Natural) Metis; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/completemetis1-5-5.pdf>

Metis Economics; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisecon1-12-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, People; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metispeople1-19-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Land; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisland1-26-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Water; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metiswater2-2-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Faith; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisfaith2-9-5.pdf>

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