

Teamwork Training, 4/16/11

Review

— Jeff Linger

This morning, we'll review the applications for last week's Law of Countability. Who remembers the definition of countability?

- Being able to count on someone.
- When and where it counts.

What three components make up countability?

1. Character
2. Competence
3. Consistency

So what if I'm a good guy; I've got some good character; you can trust me. But I'm never around. Would I have countability?

What about competence? What if someone is a good character and shows up all the time, but doesn't know how to do the work?

As we read these, let's reflect on our answers.

- Do I give others a reason to trust my character?
- Am I trustworthy?
- Am I a person of integrity?
- Do I know my responsibilities and perform them with excellence?
- Do others know they can count on me?

There's a little interaction here in this next part.

Name at least three

- If you don't know something, say you don't know it, and that you're going to find out.
- Sometimes you may have to fill in and do things you're not great at, but you make yourself available.

That's what this ministry is all about: making yourself available.

- Going to someone, like mentorship.
- Mentor others more.

Definitely. Pass on what we know; don't hoard it.

- Increase my awareness of the needs around me.

If we have a better awareness of the needs, then we're more likely to make ourselves available.

- Understanding better the burdens of those I work with.

I'm just saying, for the yard, we have a team. That's something that has to go on every week.

**Evaluate the following statements*

- It is important to me that . . .

Who would like to answer that?

I said "somewhat important" because I can't expect more out of someone else than out of myself.

When my organization has a crisis, I know exactly which team members to call.

I said yes, because I have that understanding. My boss has a list of numbers to call.

I'll go the extra mile to get the job done and give my team members confidence in me.

On the three things to do, I put "being honest with myself." So right now, I answered this question, "Sometimes, if it's worth it to me." But I'm trying to improve that.

There are some things we jump right on, and other things we're more reserved about.

When people count on me, it's important to me that I never let them down.

We're not here to please people; you're going to let people down at time, sometimes even if you do the right things. But it's important to be as consistent as possible.

We all let each other down at time, but it's still very important to meet the expectation of our team.

Exercise

— Rod Williams

I want you to give an example of when you were on a team and everyone on the team paid the price, and what the outcome was.

And I want you to give an example of when you were on a team and everyone did not pay the price, and what the outcome was.

1. *One of the first group projects I worked on in the ministry is when we all (and I mean everybody) stood side-by-side along the inside and the outside walls of a storage shed, and lifted it onto a flatbed truck to move it. This wasn't any flimsy sheet-metal shed; this was made out of two-by-fours. The only way we could do it was to all lift together.**

The financial team had a presentation to give, and we stayed here until 3:30am to get the job done, and it was ready to present at 10am. As a team, we all stayed and sacrificed to get it done.

The teams that climbed Mount Everest, and went to the North Pole, all worked together and were successful as a result.

At work, we had a bunch of gear returned to us, and our whole shop had to stay late, working ten and eleven-hour days over the course of six or seven months. But we got it done, and now we're back to regular duty.

- *When I was in football, we won the league, because we were willing to work together with the juniors.**

I went to a very small high school, but we were recognized as having one of the largest bands of any single-A school. We were in competition with double-A and triple-A schools, because we were all willing to stay late and practice.

When we were working on the building here, we came together as a team, and now we have what we have.

When we had 800 people for a Christmas dinner, it was very successful, well-planned, and coordinated. Everybody had a great time, and it made a great impact.

2. *As a counter-example, we used to have group meals at Little John. There were some who consistently showed up and helped with the preparation and cleanup. But because most people didn't, when it came time to decide whether we would continue this aspect of our ministry, nobody wanted to, least of all those who had consistently done the work.*

When I was Damage Control Petty Officer, I stood six to eight hour watches, followed by six to eight hours of maintenance. Nobody wanted to be on the team, and when I left the ship, the program went down the tubes.

Paul Rudolph's retirement was a failure, in my opinion. No one came together and pulled it through, and the leaders of the church had to do all the work.

The Detroit Lions had a win-less season. Everybody fell out on that one; the fans gave up; they made the wrong draft choices; everybody was down on the team.

At work, our managers decided to have a "stroke team". They call a stroke and everybody has to be there. So here's the way they set it up: "Read this, and here's your phone." But when we got there, we realized there were some guidelines and protocols that we had to go through. We asked management about it, and they said, "We're working on it."

The Law Of The Price Tag

— Bill Preshler

What is the Law of the Price Tag? Will anyone tell me?

How much does it cost?

That's a good questions. How much will you pay for?

I'm willing to pay a good price, if the quality is worth it.

And what are we talking about?

Landscaping equipment.

So there is a price, and we don't know what the product is, and if we know what the product is, maybe we don't know the price.

What are some other phrases associated with the Law of the Price Tag?

- Talk is cheap.

- When all is said and done, more is said than done.
- Put your money where your mouth is.
- Actions speak louder than words.
- No pain, no gain.
- That's where the rubber hits the road.

So what is the rubber?

You, me, the effort of the team.

Actions are where the rubber hits the road. Actions take commitment and sacrifice. All of the stuff that we're learning is pretty simple, but getting together and talking about it helps us all to help each other.

What is a team? What team are you on?

- Financial team
- Choir
- Welcome and Communications
- Military Ministry

Ask me what team I'm on.

What team are you on, Bill?

I'm on the Christian Fellowship team.

Can anyone tell me what I'm drawing, now?

A tree?

That's right. And now, what is this?

A fruit?

That's right. There's a lot of fruit.

(Drawing smaller trees on either side)

A lot of you might not recognize this picture. It's about a prophecy that our ministry would be so fruitful that it would start other ministries.

The old "Mount Everest" example: everybody likes to talk about Mount Everest. Does anybody know what the biggest mountain in the world was, before Mount Everest was discovered?

Anybody?

(Blank looks)

It was Mount Everest.

(Scattered laughter)

What's the first scripture that comes to mind when you think of a mountain?

The one about casting a mountain into the sea.

Why would anyone want to cast a mountain into the sea?

Back to our law. What is the product?

The gospel.

No, the gospel is not the product. It is a tool we use to produce the product. So what's the product?

Souls being saved.

That's right.

(Drawing two people with a mountain in-between.)

So there's a mountain between us and the person we want to reach with the gospel. How are we going to get this mountain out of the way?

I'm going to go over some of the pieces of the law of the price tag.

When does a person, team, or organization stop growing?

When they stop paying the price.

It's like, "When does a person start to drown?" When they stop swimming. There was a fancy phrase in the book, and when I read it, I anticipated where it was going.

- If you want to reach your potential...

The first time I read it, I thought it would finish, "... you'll never reach the top." I think we never do reach our potential. When you quit growing, you start dying. You've got to keep making that effort to grow.

The example in the book was about Montgomery Wards. They finally folded in the early eighties. I remember when I grew up, it was huge. Everybody knew about Montgomery Wards. But they kept getting smaller and dying off, and I wondered how that could happen. You all read the story in the book, right?

The law of the price tag is just effort, effort, effort, sacrifice, time, commitment, personal development, unselfishness. It's just effort. That's all there is to it. Sometimes we get into conversations that don't seem to be going anywhere, but it keeps the communication going so that we *can* go somewhere, eventually. I say that because we are a team; we're friends; we're family'; we've got to start talking to each other so we can make progress.

I read this little thing in the front; let me just read it. I paraphrased the Montgomery Wards story to the ministry.

CFC filed bankruptcy and closed its doors forever. The announcement saddened everyone, because... *(Continues reading the first paragraph of the chapter, with "CFC" substituted for "Montgomery Wards")*

This is a little lesson that I learned by listening to Lou Holtz. He was the Arkansas Razorbacks coach, but he was coaching in Ohio when this example was given. He was the defensive coordinator for Woody Hayes. The head coach said to Lou, "Get your men back; we're going to throw the ball over their head." He said, "They're okay where they are." Woody said, "If you don't get those men back, you're fired." So Lou said, "Get BACK! GET BACK!" Sometimes you've got to "lead up."

If our economy is "failing", so to speak, you can say it's all the government's fault. But it's not. We're all in this together. So leadership is not really a position; it's an attitude. Growth depends on all of us.

The big point I really wanted to make is, that in order for this ministry to grow and have fruits so big, we have to do it.

Comments?

I read an account of the battle of Valley Forge, and what impressed me is that when it all came down to it, and the bullets were flying overhead, most people did it not for the overall goal, but for the sake of the person next to them. Paying the price becomes the glue between the bricks that hold everything together.

If we're looking out for each other's burden, then we'll look out for the burden as a whole.

The price compounds if not paid early.

It's just like not paying your credit-card bill. If you don't pay the price early; it just keeps getting more and more expensive.

If you catch a mistake when it's just a little thing, it can prevent a lot of damage later.

— Rod Williams

Let's go over those answers one more time.

- An organization stops growing when it stops paying the price required for growth.
- The price must be paid by everyone.
- The price must be paid all time.
- The price compounds if not paid early.