



The Why Behind the What

Leadership Behavior: Leaders Are All In

Text: *1 Sam 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."*

What we do matters, but why we do it matters even more. When our life on earth is over, we will be remembered for what we accomplished, but we will be judged for why we did it. It is just as God said to His prophet, "I look at the heart."

Our Why Matters!

"If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed..." - Admiral William McRaven

Let me challenge myself and the Admiral. **Making your bed doesn't really matter, but why you make your bed does.**

The action itself reinforces a belief and value and reminds me who I am. It's not what I do, it's why I do it and ultimately what that says about me.

The WHY question really does uncover the heart!

Learning to wrestle with your why is so important as a leader.

As leaders, we need to start wrestling with our why more.

5 "Why" Questions to Wrestle With As a Leader

1. Why Do I / We Exist?

This is an identity question. It is the basic question of life and the search for meaning outside our own selves. It's one you will work to discover and uncover throughout your life.

As Christ followers we instinctively feel that if we are created then we have a purpose. If there is a purpose then there is also a plan. If there is a plan then there is something we have to fulfill. Discovering this is key to living a fulfilled life. Everything we do flows from this wrestling with our reason for being.

Is your reason for being clear and compelling or is it fuzzy?

A clear and compelling why burns white hot within and makes you unstoppable in your mission. A fuzzy why creates confusion and frustration. It also makes you difficult to follow.

As a church our reason for being is infused into by from Christ Himself. Our mission is His mission. We are here to seek and save that which is lost and offer those around us life in all its fullness. Therefore we are soul winners and life-givers. In short we are revivalists.

2. Why Does This Matter?

This is a values question. Why does this (ministry/product/task/vision) matter to you, to us, or the people you are trying to reach? Why is this so important? Why would others care about it? What happens if this is not done or ceases to exist? How will the community around you be effected? Why do others want to be part or come alongside and work with you?

If you don't know the answer to this question then how will others understand the value of what you do or offer?

Our lives have a purpose and what we do must also have purpose. In fact the purpose in what we do is powerful when it reinforces who we are.

As a church we do what we do because people matter. Families matter. Moms and dads matter. Sons and daughters matter. When we make a difference in a life, we change a family and change our community.

3. Why is this working or Why is this not working as it should?

This question is diagnostic. As leaders we must be willing to look at ourselves and the things and people we lead square in the face and question our success and failure.

What is working well and reproducing for you? Why is it flourishing? Is there another way of doing what you do that would yield the same or greater results with less effort? Why this and not something else?

What is not working? Why aren't people attracted to it? Why is it not multiplying? What patterns do you keep repeating or mistakes do you keep making? Why haven't you seen the pattern or problem? What needs to change?

Remember we ask four key questions of every success and failure. What's right? What's wrong? What's confusing? What's missing?

4. Why Not?

This is a visionary question. It looks beyond where you are and envisions something greater. It's the question of the pioneer or entrepreneur.

What risks am I afraid to take? What am I afraid of losing? What can I try that will be different? What if we fail? What if we succeed? What if we don't?

It is impossible to eliminate risk. You can ask the right questions so that you can make an informed decision. However at the end of the day, this is a gut decision.

If something doesn't feel right to you, it's not right for you.

5. Why is it so critical to constantly be asking the question, "Why?"

We come into life with a curiosity about everything. We first learn to ask, "What is this?" and "What is that?" We then move on to the next question, "Why?"

Somewhere along the way we are told enough, "That's just the way things are!" "Just do what you are told." "Because I said so" or "It is what it is" and we stop asking.

If God built the why question into the beginning of our life and judges us at the end of our life according to it, perhaps we need to keep wrestling with it. As we do, we grow as leaders and become more certain about who we are, what we do and why we do it.