



MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED!

MARCH, 08 2020 / 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Spiritual Ponderings:

Trust II

"A team is not a group of people that work together. A team is a group of people that trust each other." - Simon Sinek. Learning to build trust with others will therefore help us build trust with God and thus help us to make God and us a great team. For insights in how to develop trust we will turn to Stephen M.R. Covey's book called *The Speed of Trust: The One Thing that Changes Everything*. Quotes from the book will be in bold my commentary in normal type.

The difference between a high-trust and low-trust relationship is palpable! Take communication. In a high-trust relationship, you can say the wrong thing, and people will get your meaning. In a low-trust relationship, you can be very measured, even precise, and they'll still misinterpret you.

The longer, I know someone the more I am willing to trust them. When my trust in God is high living my faith seems to be easier than the times, I doubt God's love or God's existence. I am also willing to work harder for people I trust than for people I do not trust.

Here's a simple formula that will enable you to take trust from an intangible and unquantifiable variable to an indispensable factor that is both tangible and quantifiable. The formula is based on this critical insight: Trust always affects two outcomes—speed and cost. When trust goes down, speed will also go down and costs will go up.

↓Trust = ↓Speed ↑Cost

When trust goes up, speed will also go up and costs will go down.

↑Trust = ↑Speed ↓Cost

It's that simple, that real, that predictable. Let me share a couple of examples.

Stephen goes on to give the example of how trust has played a role in the air travel. Before 9/11 there was a high level of trust and people could speed right through the airport but after 9/11 moving through the airport takes longer because there is a lower level of trust.

Before reading this book, I never saw trust as having any economic or financial value. It makes sense though. Time is money and thus the quicker we can do things the better. I now think of this every time I turn my computer on and how all the software programs that start up to protect my computer takes so long because we cannot trust people not to invent malware.

When a priest enters into a parish for the first time he is encouraged not to change too much too quickly. He should instead spend his time connecting with people and building up trust. I am sure that this advice is good advice in the work place and when learning how to live with new family members (i.e. in-laws).

"Our distrust is very expensive." – Ralph Waldo Emerson.

How much money do we spend on security today because we cannot trust people? How much time (and time is money) do we spend trying to be safe because we do not trust each other? We have security cameras, metal detectors, etc. All of which costs money.

I know of leading organization who ask their employees directly the following simple question in formal. 360-degree feedback processes: Do you trust your boss?" These companies have learned that the answer is more predictive of team and organizational performance than any other questions they might ask.

Do you trust God? This one question makes one of the best examination of consciences. The story of Abraham and Sarah in Genesis is a story of trust. When Abraham and Sarah do things God's way good things happen to them. When they don't trust God and do things their way bad things happen. The more they get to know God and see that God keeps His promises the more they trust Him. The ultimate sign of this test is the story of Abraham willing to sacrifice Isaac.

Once you really understand the hard, measurable economics of trust, it's like putting on a new pair of glasses. Everywhere you look you can see the impact—at work, at home, in every relationship, in every effort. You can begin to see the incredible difference high-trust-relationship can make in every dimension of life.

The Israelites pay a high price for not trusting God by having to wander forty years in the desert because they did not trust in God despite the fact that God had led them out of slavery. If they would have trusted God they would have been in the Promise Land much sooner.

On a personal level, high-trust individuals are more likely to be promoted, make more money, receive the best opportunities and have more.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

March 08 2020 / Second Sunday of Lent / Lectionary: 25 / Gospel MT 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Spiritual Reflection: How does God's all-powerfulness affect the way you relate to Him. Does it slow you down like Peter or does it keep you moving like Jesus?

Spiritual Questions:

1. Are you favored by God? How?
2. What does your salvation mean to you today?
3. What does to be blessed by God mean?
4. Why do you live the Christian life today?
5. What is the distinction between faith and merit?



Sunday

Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival. - C. S. Lewis

Monday

There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship. - Thomas Aquinas

Tuesday

In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thought of the Day

- Wednesday** You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you. - Dale Carnegie
- Thursday** I'm a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down. - Abraham Lincoln
- Friday** Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend. - Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Saturday** Friends share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand. - Henri Nouwen

PRO-LIFE



March 2020

Prayer for People to Answer the Call to be People of Justice

God of life and love, you created us in your image and sent your Son to bring us life. Instill in us a respect for all life, from conception to natural death. Empower us to work for justice for the poor. Nourish us that we may bring food to the hungry. Inspire us to cherish the fragile life of the unborn. Strengthen us to bring comfort to the chronically ill. Teach us to treat the aging with dignity and respect. Bring us one day into the glory of everlasting life. We ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal and merciful Father, I give you thanks for the gift of Your Divine Son who suffered, died and rose from the dead for all people. I thank You also for my Catholic Faith and ask Your help that I may grow in fidelity by prayer, by works of charity, and by Penance and the Holy Eucharist.

Inspired by confidence in Your power to move hearts and by the success of prayer, I pray for (N) who no longer share(s) in the intimate life of your

Catholic family. Grant through my prayer and witness that (she/he/they) may be open to the promptings of the HOLY SPIRIT to return to the loving union with Your people. Grant also that my prayer be ever hopeful and that I may never judge another, for You alone can read hearts. I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



St. Monica Society

Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

Catholic Prayers

PRAYER FOR TRUE FRIENDSHIP

Jesus, loving companion of Your children, You have extended Your friendship to all. You opened Your arms without discrimination, Offering Your warmth to those seeking comfort. Endow me with the virtue of such a friendship, To know, love and trust all on an equal basis; To share my patronizing without favoritism, And to be pleasant towards the destitute. Fashion my heart to reflect Your qualities, Those befitting of a cordial association. Jesus, You showed me the way to true friendship: Blessed is Your amazing and warm Person!



Humor

Today, my son asked "Can I have a book mark?" and I burst into tears. 11 years old and he still doesn't know my name is Brian.

My wife is really mad at the fact that I have no sense of direction. So I packed up my stuff and right.