

“Not built as a lone ranger”

This essay records a major transformation in my understanding on how we, human beings, were built to accomplish our Creator’s purpose and to live a plentiful life, and how the GoBusiness 200 curriculum provided a foundational base to reform my beliefs system, from one built on the ground of pain, rejection and insecurity, to one where I see myself God’s way and see in me what God sees.

As the son of a pastor since I was born, I grew up with two ideas, one that I think most of us share, “when I grow up, I want to be rich, powerful, successful, famous”, the other, “I want to achieve all that by myself and not through ministry”. Even in my early days, thirty-plus years ago, I remember to hear about pastors and men of God who fell under the power of greed and corruption and ended up messing up and giving a bad testimony of Christ to the world.

Those two ideas combined led me to a model, a dualistic one, I would live my life to fulfill God’s plan for me, doing ministry in any area in which He would commission me and also, I would develop a business career that will give me the economic status, the name and the influence that I dreamed about, specially that. Since the beginning it was not primarily about money, power, fame it was about influence, about been remembered after my life ended, it was about pride.

It was back in 2016 that I came in touch for real with Dennis Peacocke’s teachings, I had heard about him before and even participated in a study about his book “Winning the battle for the minds of men”, but it was in that year when I “clicked” with the message and understood that it was my time of transformation, my Romans 12, the moment to fight for the renewal of my mind. That process started and it’s still in motion.

Through experiences in my life, bad experiences, I started building a thought process from the ideas of, “it’s better to be alone that with the wrong people around”, “If you want things to be done well you must do them yourself”, and those ideas turned me in to a lone ranger. Betrayal,

pain, shame, distrust, those were feelings that made me think that if I pursue my destiny without anyone's help, I would be better.

Clearly, I was ignoring a biblical principle for human beings, "And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him." (KJV, 1769/2008). Our Creator designed us, understands us more than we understand ourselves and He wired us to connect with others, that's our nature and I was living against it.

"Doing business God's way", "Building organizations relationally", both were huge confrontations to me that revealed the reasons for the failure in much of my business entrepreneurship and also some in ministry. I was avoiding at all cost to work with others and if God builds relationally, how can I assume that I can build something that works alone?

During his one hundred days speech, Franklin Delano Roosevelt quoted, "people acting together as a group can accomplish things that no individual acting alone could ever hope to bring about" (Roosevelt, July 24, 1933), ninety years later I find myself writing this essay, to acknowledge this truth, not because FDR said it so, but because our father said "it is not good that the man should be alone" and he acted to empower him.

There are probably hundreds of scenarios registered in history as examples of the benefits of working together to achieve amazing results. Operation Dynamo in 1940, also called the Miracle of Dunkirk, describes the strength of the many and how collective efforts improve the efforts of overcoming challenges. In Dunkirk more than 338,000 thousand allied soldiers were evacuated by a hastily assembled fleet of over 800 vessels where navy ships joined together with hundreds of merchant marine boats, fishing boats, pleasure craft, yachts, and even lifeboats to accomplish the task.

The book, *The Miracle of Dunkirk – The True Story of Operation Dynamo*, (Lord, 1982) records a quote from Winston Churchill about the Dunkirk's miracle.

"We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we

shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.” – Winston Churchill

In his quote, he uses the word “we” eleven times to illustrate that every endeavor we face must be built on the relational basis to guarantee success. There were men holding the Germans back, there were other men rising up the moral of the soldiers waiting for their lift, there were others in the ships and smaller vessels and there were others like Churchill miles away hoping and waiting for the best, but altogether was built a “We” that evacuated in 1940 but won the war 1945.

Dunkirk shows the importance of connecting efforts, regardless the dimension of those around. Sometimes the strongest, the biggest, the smartest, the most prepared, the one with more scholar degrees, the most renown, the one with the greatest resources become insufficient and then God sets a Kingdom alliance with the most unexpected and empower them with the Holy Spirit to conquer any challenge ahead.

Another impressive event in history that shows us the value of unity to prevail, is the story of the 1980 USA Olympic Hockey Team. A group of young, amateur hockey players from all over the country that under a vision, and a new identity faced the Soviet hockey team, undefeated world champions and beat them to play the game for the gold medal and brought it home. The key to accomplish was to unify the whole team under one identity.

In the book “Miracle in Lake Placid – The Greatest Hockey Story Ever Told”, John Gilbert cites a revealing anecdote that illustrates how the whole team became under a united identity, he wrote about President Jimmy Carter’s Vice President, “He came into the US dressing room afterward and, being from Minnesota, congratulated the players and asked, “How many of you are from Minnesota?” Brooks intervened. “Nobody is from Minnesota, Mr. Vice President, we’re all from the USA (Gilbert, 2019).

When we are trying to achieve a goal on our own or when we are working with others but not under unity, we will find ourselves dealing with fear, deception, negativity, jealousy, envy,

insecurity, division and so many other issues that will affirm in our human mind the idea that it can't be done.

If we are walking in unity and under the revelation that it's not our goal and it's not our name, that it's not about us but about him, and that we are all together aligned under a Kingdom vision. We will declare at some point our own version of "Nobody is from Minnesota, we're all from the USA.

In the past year I learned that it's not my vision, it is the Creator's one, that I'm an actor, but not the star in the play, I learned that what I am, is by His grace and because He assigned me to the post in which I stand. I also learned that someone was there before me, and that some will be ready to take the next watch after me, that those who come after will be my own or the ones responsible for my generations.

I learned that I carry a heart that can hold the nature of a son or the nature of a slave, and that there is a huge difference in the results of building with the either of both, but the outcome that I long for demands from me to pursue the heart of the son.

Through the whole curriculum, the guidance of my facilitator and the interaction with my classmates I was exposed by the grace of God to a challenging reality, I was not built as a lone ranger, I won't fulfill my commission if I keep thinking that way, and there's an amazing number of people around me, in my present and in the future that will hub with me through divine appointments to empower the Kingdom that we stand for.

Bibliography

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