carey weekly



COMMUNITY FORMATION

Semester One is nearly over! There is no Chapel or Tuesday lunch next week but lunch will be provided on Monday due to the "catch up" classes.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHOCOLATE GIVER (NEROLI) Course Evaluations

Friendly reminder to please complete your course evaluations. You get a chocolate once you've done so. The evaluations are really important for Carey to know what we are doing well and what we can do differently to help you succeed in your studies!

Enroling for Semester Two

Deadline for enrolments is Wednesday 14th July. Start enrolling if you haven't already.









Conversations with James

I have a disabled son. His name is James. He is 23 years old but has the cognitive ability of a 6–9 month baby. He is dependent on us for all his needs.

In recent years we have had the opportunity to do ministry together. It is the best thing ever. We do a talk on leadership entitled 'Conversation with James'. It is a conscious attempt to recognise the contributions that James has made to me and to my understanding of leadership and to take his preverbal communication seriously. In this conversation, I offer five things that I have learnt from James about leadership and their significance for Christian leadership:

Stop pretending

One of the reasons I like spending time with you, James, is because I can't impress you. Well, unless I was holding a big piece of cake! I mean it is so different being your Dad from being the leader of a theological college. Often being a leader is so much about performance, charisma, being able to motivate, and cast impressive visions. It's about being able to speak the right words, blog the right thoughts, read the right books, and network with the right people. It is about rubbing shoulders with academics, keeping up with the competition, and maintaining a glossy, well-run, machine. But it's so not like that with you James! These things mean nothing to you. My leadership skills don't impress you at all. And it's so freeing. It's so liberating. When we hang out I don't have to perform for you or pretend that I can. You don't love me because of what I can do, you love me because I'm here and that's enough.

Enjoy the broken

I love the fact that you are broken and I don't have to fix you. There is nothing that can be done about your disability and I have to accept it. You have made me realise that instead of resenting your brokenness, instead of wishing you were different, I can enjoy you and live in all the richness that your brokenness brings. It is through your disabilities that I have learnt the most about myself, about life, about living, and about God. Thank you for reminding me not to be sucked in by perfection and all of its glossiness and superficiality.

Slow down

We get so busy James. Rushing from meeting to meeting, hurrying from problem to problem, from person to person. Phone calls, emails, organizing, planning, sermons. James—we simply run out of time, and the quality of what happens in each hour gets diluted. We become driven and task focused. Our big purpose even gets over-run by the nuts and bolts...James, you have taught me to slow down and become less task focused. You've helped me to remember what really matters, to take a step back and to re-visit the big picture, to pause and catch glimpses of beauty in the small things. James, have taught me so much.

Get excited

It's so easy to lose excitement when you're a leader. You come into the job as a young pastor, ready to change the world—a risk taker, a pioneer, an adventurer. You're energetic, fired up, and excited. And then you slowly change. You get wiser. You take a few knocks, criticism comes your way, you learn to pace yourself, you learn about self-preservation. We become self-aware, self-contained and self-conscious. But I don't want to be like that James, I want to be more like you! I want to be a leader who is less careful, less politically correct, and less cautious. Thank you for reminding me that in my apathy and safeness I might just be missing out on the exciting things God has in mind for me!

Chill out

You're such a patient man, James. In all this, you don't grizzle and grump, you don't throw a paddy or give up. I seem to get so impatient when things aren't going my way: "The elders, they just don't understand me!" "Why won't they provide me with the resources I need to get the job done." And the way I complain to Mum when my mates in secular work upgrade their cars, move into a bigger house, and tell us about their planned overseas trip. Well, it's not fair James! James, I have watched the way you respond to the challenges and I have learnt so much.

On Wednesday James and I were filmed together having this conversation. I was filled with so much excitement. However, it didn't go very well. James was not settled and the filming had to stop. I am struggling with this. I am disappointed.

Maybe James is continuing to teach his Dad. I think he is talking to me about 1 Corinthians 1, But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. I think he wants me to remember the promise of my own Heavenly father in 2 Corinthians 12, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Charles Hewlett Principal