



Marketplace Moments

Bibliophoria

Management by Proverbs by Michael Zigarelli

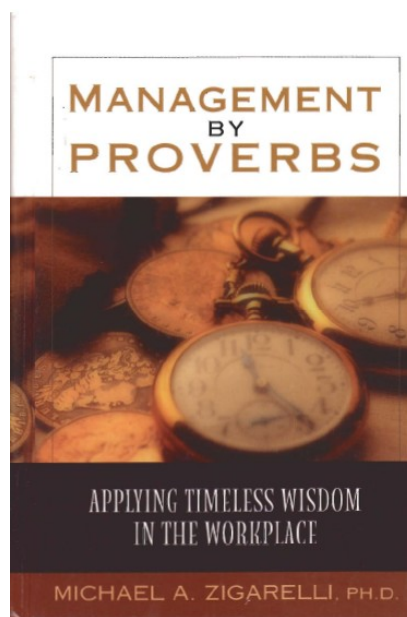
In the aftermath of the earlier downfall of Enron and Arthur Anderson, most people would have thought that captains of industries should well heed the lessons and buckle up. Then we run into the sub-prime crisis that now escalated into a global recession, perhaps even a depression. What has the bible to teach us that we have not learnt? Though we may not agree with all of Zigarelli's perspective, he has at least done more than most pastors or Christian businessmen, and that is to search hard into scriptures and uncover principles that could be well applied into the workplace.

This book surveys the various passages from the book of Proverbs and is sub-divided into 5 different sections, on Laying a Personal Foundation for Success, Building a Competitive Workforce, Cultivating a Culture of Commitment, Evaluating and Rewarding Performance and Controlling Workplace Conflict.

The book of Proverbs covers themes such as advice to leaders, money, proper use of words, improper use of words, virtues, vices, work and family.

I appreciate Zigarelli's attempt also to be faithful and careful in his interpretation of the proverbs as short passages like proverbs can be easily misunderstood.

You may ask if such an ancient book like proverbs, written close to 3000



years ago, could be relevant in an age of world wide web, TQM (total quality management) and globalized work flow? My simple answer is that even though technology and way things are done, demographics has changed dramatically, but the human condition and the created order is still prototype A, no upgrades and new model (perhaps only for those who are regenerated in Christ, as His new people of God, but still work in progress).

This is a great book for a small group discussion from young executives to managers and CEOs, not just in business but even from areas such as education, government, media, healthcare etc, to use this as a platform to stimulate reflections. Zigarelli uses extensive cases from his own experience and research. Hope it brings you to study God's word into greater depth and more importantly in how to live.

Inside this issue:

Bibliophoria	1
Of the Heart and Mind	2
Eyes in a Darkened Room	3
What's Up?	4

Highlights

- Management by Proverbs
- Walking on Water
- Ghosts Town

Of the Heart and Mind

Walking on Water

For fame or money, people would do the craziest things. Think of reality shows such as "Fear Factor", "The Apprentice" and "Survivor". Contestants are challenged to overcome insurmountable odds to achieve their goals. Some have been challenged to do daredevil stunts, cause self-inflicted pain or come up with scheming business ideas. The message is clear: "Be bold!" ... "Overcome fear!" ... "Don't play it safe!" Unless we dare, we are destined to live ordinary, mundane life. We often think like that too in our Christian life. A few years ago, John Ortberg wrote a popular book entitled, "If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat." The message of the book is simple. If you want to live a more-than-ordinary life, you've got to have the courage of Peter. Just as Peter stepped out of the boat to walk on water towards Jesus, we too need to have such faith to overcome obstacles that stand in our path. Great potential, Ortberg says, lies beyond our comfort zone.

I want to take another look at the story of Jesus and Peter walking on the water (see Matt. 14:22-33). I wonder if Peter's courage in water-walking is something we should necessarily emulate. Is the Christian life really about getting out of the

boat and walking on water? In other words, are we to be like Peter in his leap of faith, so we can live beyond ourselves? Or is the story really about our trust in Jesus our Savior who comes to us?

In this familiar story, we read of the disciples who were instructed by Jesus to cross the lake to the other side. Soon their boat was caught in a violent storm. They were terrified, perhaps even perplexed: "We obeyed Jesus and we end up in this!" Then a shadowy figure approached them. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear (Matt. 14:26). They were so overwhelmed with fear that they could not recognize Jesus. Then they heard a familiar voice. "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" (v. 27). Those words alone would have been sufficient. This was reassuring enough. This was their salvation. The storm could rage on. The boat could toss back and forth. No matter. The voice of the Master sufficed to calm all fears.

I remembered a time when I was a kid waiting for my parents to pick me up after music class. They had promised to come by soon. The clock ticked by. It was getting dark. Still no sight of my parents. I was terrified and close to tears. In those days, there were no mobile phones, so I had no idea when they would come. I waited and waited, when all of a sudden, I heard a familiar voice behind. It

was my father. How relieved I was!

How many times have disappointments in life caused us to doubt the presence of God in our own lives? We hope for a miracle and all we hear is a voice that says, "Don't be afraid." We want a dramatic rescue, but all we receive is a reassurance, "Take courage! It is I." But that is not enough. We want more.

Peter wanted more. Without waiting for Jesus to come closer, he took the initiative to get out and walk towards the shadowy figure. He said, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water" (v. 28). Were these the words of faith or were they evidence of doubt (cf. v. 32)? Peter could well be challenging the Lord to prove Himself by enabling him to walk on water. "Lord, if it's you ..." Our prayers today may be the same. "Lord, if it's you, heal me!" ... "Lord, if it's you, give me this job" ... "Lord, if it's you, work a miracle."

The issue with Peter was that he could not believe the voice he heard, even though it was a familiar voice. And because he could not believe what he heard, he could not trust it. So he needed proof. In the end, the proof he needed was his own way out of the dilemma. If only he could walk on water, he would be satisfied. The reassuring voice of the Master was insufficient to inspire faith, trust and security. A miracle,

Eyes in a Darkened Room

Ghost Town

Bertram Pinkus (Ricky Gervais, know for his famous role in the British version of *The Office*) is an angry and anti-social dentist who has only one person in his life and on his mind; himself. He underwent a medical procedure which for a brief moment died. When he awoke, he could see ghosts. They all wanted Pinkus to help them, particularly Frank wanted Pinkus to help break up the impending wedding of his widow Gwen to her lawyer boyfriend.

Frank believed that once they break up, he would be released. However, that was not the case. Pinkus in the process fell in love with Gwen. Pinkus explained to Gwen that he is seeing Frank but Gwen thought he was lying. Pinkus felt all alone again. He came back to the office only to be guided by his dental colleague, pointing to a quote of Albert Einstein that "A worthy life is one that is lived for others".

Pinkus decided to finally help the ghosts who had requested for him to help pass a final message to their colleagues or loved one, all of whom were not able to resolve a guilt or a pain. In the process, Pinkus realized that it was not the dead that were not released but those that were alive who were not able to let go.

Pinkus tried to explain to Gwen again but was hit by a bus. He died again. When Gwen started crying for Pinkus, Frank knew that he was released. Pinkus was resus-

citated and has learned to live for others as well as for himself. He was more fulfilled in life and less angry.

The movie is not only about the value and worth of living for others. It also brings to my own life about learning to grow and let go. You see, I lost two persons who are close to me in my own life, a former boss (not a Christian) and a friend (Christian brother and mentor). My wife said that I get to be close to many older friends who will probably go home to glory before I do. It will probably hit one after another as I journey in life. I need to learn to 'deal' with it.

Pete died suddenly at the age of 72, before I had a chance to bid farewell. He was diagnosed with cancer but his death was sudden. We were to meet in Chicago but he was not able to because he was to be in between conferences scheduled. Little did we know that my trip was to attend his funeral.

Letting go is not an easy lesson to learn in life because a part of them still live within your memory. Your life has been touched or influenced by them. It is particularly difficult when they are not believers in Christ. Sometimes you are not sure if you have already let go. Pete lost his wife a year ago. His grieving period was a painful and reflective one, with 6 volumes of journals and reflections. He missed her so. One last final volume was written for his 3



grown children, to help them through their grief when he is gone. What a gift! Even at his death, Pete inspired me to want to be a better father through the eulogies. He did not just talk about faith and life integration, he lived it. We witnessed it.

Pete did not grow up in a Christian family. Rather, he grew up with an alcoholic father and in a broken home. God's gift and healing to a hurting man was having his own family, a loving wife whom he often admires, sets him on the straight and narrow and becoming friends with his children. It encourages those of us who grew up in brokenness that it is possible to raise families well, by His grace, with much less dysfunctionality.

As much as we want to live the victorious life, much of the psalms and prophets are also about lament and sorrows. *ISA 53:3* *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

In our deepest loss, pain and suffering, God not only give us comfort and peace, He gives HIMSELF.

**Marketplace
Christian Network**

Teban Garden Post Office
PO Box 669
Singapore 916003



Phone: +65 6872 4732
Email:
info@marketplacechristian.net
Web-site:
▶ www.marketplacechristian.net

**Kingdom Building
at the Workplace**

Coming Events

For more information check our web-site.

**6 Mar – Christian Perspective on
Financial Relationships**
Dr. Michael Schluter
6:30 – 9:00pm GCF Centre
420 North Bridge Road, #05-04
RSVP: gcfsing@gcf.org.sg



after all, is always better.

When we recognize our need to be rescued, we see him for who Jesus really is. When the storm died down, the disciples

confessed, "Truly you are the Son of God" (v. 33). He is not a ghost. He is the living Lord. Are you in trouble? Call upon Him. Our Lord Jesus comes to us with the reassuring words,

"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." That alone is reassuring enough.

Rev Dr. Oh Boon Leong
Mt Carmel BP Church