

DANCING WITH WOLVES – *LEADING THE LAMBS*

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Wolves and Lambs while totally incompatible are a critical part of life cycle or an organizational system.

So much of the time in an organization is spent in fending off the wolves and defending the lambs.

Can you imagine what your day or week may be like if you did not have to deal with wolves?

Instead of dealing with human-wolves, let us look at system-wolves. System-wolves are incarnated people.

A cursory glance of wolves in the first few chapter of *Acts of the Apostles* will help us to identify our own wolves:

1. 1:4 Commitment / Obedience to a plan ... *Don't leave Jerusalem until...*
2. 1:6-7 Making decisions on limited facts/information
3. 1:8 A clear purpose statement ... witnesses = martyrs
4. 1:8 Scope of ministry ... global
5. 1:13-15 Rising of an internal leader
6. 1:15-26 Issues of succession
7. 2:12-36 Responding to accusations and misunderstandings – all a part of leadership
8. 3:11-26 Handling people's praise

9. 4:13 Handling people's name calling
UNLEARNED = Illiterate or Unlettered
IGNORANT = Idiot or Ignoramus
10. 4:32-37 Management of limited resources
11. 5:1-11 Stewardship (Non-tithing members)
12. 5:17-42 Persecution
13. 6:1-6 Conflict resolution
14. 6:2,4 Clarification of Mission
15. 6:3,5 Selection of leaders
16. 6:6 Delegation of responsibilities
17. 8:1,4 Complacency in comfort zone *Except the Apostles*
18. 9 Acceptance of those formerly opposed to us (Saul's conversion to Paul)
19. 13:1,2; 16:1 Mentoring leading to multiplication of ministry
20. 15:36-41 Conflict among leaders

The noncomprehensive list above leads us to some principles on *Dancing with Wolves while Leading the Lambs*.

WOLVES THAT WILL DESTROY YOU AS YOU LEAD THE LAMBS

- I. The three essentials
 - A. Vision – What do you see yourself accomplishing
 - B. Mission – How you will accomplish what you see
 - C. Core-Values – What will never change about you without changing the very nature of your organization

- II. Focus
 - A. Keeping your visionary focus
 - B. Four basic pitfalls:
 1. Getting marginalized – When your input and influence is reduced or contained only in a few areas
 2. Getting diverted – When nonessentials occupy valuable time, resources and energy
 3. Getting attacked – When resistance and overt attacks remove our focus from the main issues
 4. Getting seduced – When pleasing our allies becomes more important than to stay a difficult course
 - C. It's all in the way you look at it. What do the following letters say?

OPPORTUNITYISNOWHERE

O _____ I _____ N _____ W _____

Or

O _____ I _____ N _____ H _____

III. Decision about making decisions

Steps in the process:

Data \Rightarrow Information \Rightarrow Knowledge \Rightarrow Decision

DATA once given is



- Selected
- Summarized
- Categorized
- Calculated / Analyzed



Information relevant to the user



USER then

- Compares
- Connects
- Creates Meaning



Knowledge useful in decision context



Decision

Four essential questions:

1. Is this in line with our vision, mission and core values?
2. Do we have the organizational / human capacity to do this?
3. How will God be glorified?
4. How much will it cost? (*Not, "Do we have the money?"*)

- IV. Communication
 - A. Abstract
 - B. Concrete
 - C. BOTH need to be done in the same meeting
- V. Allies and Confidants
 - A. Allies, while your friends may have other loyalties too
 - B. Confidants provide sanctuary, intellectual and emotional support
 - C. You need both
- VI. Recruiting volunteers
- VII. The BIG three - PMS
 - A. Power
 - B. Money
 - C. Sex
- VIII. The BIG question.
 - “Why do I tolerate poor and often bad leaders?”
- IX. Watch out for success – it can be more dangerous than failure
- X. Inheritance Vs. Legacy

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