

Lecture Eight: Paradigm Shift

Acts 10:9-23 “How to succeed in the changing world?”

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1. Introduction

1) Paradigm: A Set of Rule to solve the problem! Copernicus.

Joel Barker, Future Edge: Discovering the New Paradigms, 1992

A. Paradigm is a set of rules/regulations that does two things: Define boundary and how to behave inside the boundaries so as to be successful.

B. His thesis is that unless companies adapt to the changing paradigm, they are doomed.

C. How to do it?

a. Transcend common sense! Common sense changes too.

b. Transcend assumptions! Don't think there is only one answer for the question.

c. Transcend your stubborn mindset!

d. Open your ears to the outsiders.

2) Problem of the Apostles: The same

A. Apostles did not understand the will of God who opened the new way of salvation. No distinction.

B. Three things Jesus broke, but Apostles still adhered to.

a. Favoritism of Jews as the elect. Salvation is for the Jews, Abraham's descendents. By blood or by faith in Christ?

b. Top priority on keeping the tradition: Sabbath, Ceremonial law (Clean/unclean).

c. The temple. Building or the body of Christ?

2. Prescription of God: Training through the Holy Spirit

1) Contrast between the Apostles and the Deacons

A. The Apostles: Closed mindset.

Stayed at Jerusalem, where the temple is (Acts 8:4-5).

NRS Acts 8:1 And Saul approved of their killing him. That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria.

B. The Deacons: Open mindset (Philip and Stephen in particular).

Preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles: Paradigm shift.

NRS Acts 8:4 Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them.

2) Peter's problem and God's solution

A. His will to use Peter for preaching to Cornelius, but Peter's stubbornness

Distance from Joppa to Caesareus: 30 miles

Distance in Peter's heart [to Gentiles]: 30 miles

B. His work of paradigm shift in Peter's heart: Three steps

1'st step: 3 x visions: Clean/unclean problem → Fellowship with the Gentiles.

2'nd step: Spirit's command

NRS Acts 10:19 While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look, three men are searching for you. 20 "But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself."

3'rd step: Confirmation of revelation through the mouth of servants of Cornelius

22 They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was *divinely* directed by a holy angel to send for you *to come* to his house and hear a message from you."

Peter's paradigm shift: Obedience

4'th step: Confirmation: Confirmation through the mouth of Cornelius (Acts 10:28, 34, 35, 36).

3. Application

1) Transcend your common sense → paradigm shift to faith

A. Not by sight, but by faith

B. Throw out Negative identity!

Your age, past performance, and lack of time...

2) Throw out Sour-grape syndrome!

A. Total vision, not tunnel vision.

There are more than one way to solve the problem. Don't give up because one way did not work! Seek other ways!

3) Transcend ego-centrism! → Theocentrism.

Not my way, but God's way through my life.