

TEN-TEN LEADERSHIP

My training as an engineer included rigorous coursework in science, math, chemistry and physics. Those academic subjects helped me appreciate the physical laws governing the world we live in. I benefited from leaders in those fields who performed experiments, sometimes dangerous ones, to prove their theories about how things work. My training as a businessman included advanced coursework in economics, law, management and accounting. I benefited from leaders in those fields who risked their limited resources to prove the value of commitment, perseverance and, yes, faith in our free enterprise system. Their legacy is the beneficial knowledge they left behind to guide us and to keep us from repeating past mistakes. Such beneficial knowledge supports basic truths and provides some protection from deceptive individuals or practices.

The gospel according to John in verse ten of chapter ten reads, ***“The thief comes to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I (Jesus) am come that people might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”*** The thief is the one who would misuse knowledge to deceive and to do harm. Jesus’ mission was to be the true door, providing beneficial knowledge about the way to an abundant life. In the scriptures, before and after John 10:10, the writer tells about Jesus’ actions to provide results, protection and relief to people. There are parallels between Jesus’ actions and those of other leaders who provide beneficial knowledge based on truth – what I call Ten-Ten Leadership.

Ten-Ten leaders have two traits in common:

1. They take risks to increase beneficial knowledge and to communicate basic truths;
2. They are aware that such knowledge can be used for good or evil.

Jesus’ challenge was not in discovering truths but in getting people to believe in His message and to follow His example. He understood that followers expect leaders to deliver results – He performed miracles. He understood that followers expect protection from life’s hazards – He was the good Shepherd. He understood that followers want relief from their anxieties – He provided the way to ever-lasting life. Although leaders today cannot give the results, protection and relief on the scale that Jesus did, people still need Ten-Ten Leadership.

When I reflect on the problems and harms that are rampant in the world today – inadequate wages, costly health care, implicit biases, unaffordable housing, apathy, and more – the need for Ten-Ten Leadership is clear. We need leaders who will rise above partisanship, to tackle real problems and undo harms. Real results, protection and relief for people come from leaders who have beneficial knowledge. Don’t be deceived but seek out and support Ten-Ten Leadership.