

Biblical Wisdom at Work

In an article by Kathy Simmons, titled "Avoiding Career Landmines", she gives four habits to avoid. While reading I thought how all of the points are taught in the Bible.

The first landmine to avoid is the rumor mill. How many times have we all heard rumors at the work place? Somebody is angry with another, or flirting with someone, or some other bit of news about a company layoff; the list is endless. Most of these rumors are false or just plain gossip and no one's business. "A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter." (Proverbs 11:13). Have you ever known of any thing good to come from a rumor or a juicy piece of gossip?

The secondly deadly landmine is, badmouthing the boss. A lot of people like to complain and grumble about their boss. Bosses like most people are not perfect. If a "boss" or supervisor ask you to do some thing immoral then you cannot go along with the request. However, in most situations, people need to do their best and keep their complaints to themselves. "Do all things without complaining and disputing," (Philippians 2:14).

The third landmine is, trying to use your peers for your own selfish purposes. Companies and managers want people who can work with and not abuse others, it is called team work. The person who thinks everybody else is there to serve them is headed for trouble. "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." (Philippians 2:3-4) A little bit of team work, which is called fellowship, goes along way in the Lord's body. Since we all have one Master, one Lord, we should all be on the same page and not complain or grumble. "Do all things without complaining and disputing." (Philippians 2:14).

The fourth and final landmine to avoid is, resisting risk. Frankly this one surprised me a little bit. However, most managers are willing to put up with your failures if you are willing to try and improve.

This relates to a principle set forth in Matthew 25. "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I

reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 'So, you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 'Therefore, take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.'" (Matthew 25:24-28).

The avoidance of risk often leads to failure. Success in business often requires a measure of risk. The Romans had a saying, "Victory belongs to the brave." Success spiritually often requires us to do things we are not used to doing and may even have trouble doing. However, the real risk and failure comes from the attitude of "I'll play it safe and do nothing." Remember the words of Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13). -- Dennis Tucker