

Welcome to 'Wake Up Call' your weekly email support from



Who's on your side? Who's on your team? Who can you count on when you're in trouble?

I recently read an interview with Tom Hanks. He was promoting his movie 'Castaway'. There is a scene in the movie where Hanks, the business man, is stopped in his car at a crossroads. Apparently it is quite a movie moment. The interviewer asked Hanks whether this was a metaphor for his own life-at the crossroads and trying to decide which way to go. Hanks' reply was, to me, remarkable and profound he said "No of course not, it's the wrong question, the question is who's with you in the car?"

So who is with you in your work? Choosing partners or colleagues is an important business. It's possible to be spiritually wise or spiritually naive in this approach. Shepherd turned prophet Amos asks us "How can two walk together unless they are agreed?" Paul warns of the real danger of an unequal yoke. At the very least, partners should be in agreement. The agreement should be on the vision and values. But beyond that they should be walking together deepening their understanding of each other, carrying each other's loads and being there for each other. Attention needs to be paid to spiritual compatibility as well as professional competence.

Many people just find themselves working with someone else or in a particular team. There are subtle choices even in these situations. Seeking out the most like-minded colleague in a situation can be an enormous source of support (I am not advocating avoidance of all creative difference here which is another subject). But for longer-term strategic partnerships we need great wisdom. Jesus prayed all night before He chose the twelve, and He knew about people. Throughout biblical history there are examples of those who chose well and those who messed up. It is arguably better to be alone than with the wrong partner.

So if you are, for example, in law, medicine or business and you are choosing a new partner, spend the time, effort and prayer that is required. Ask God who looks on the heart to help you see the right people - people who will do you good and whom you can trust. Some of you may be in the wrong partnership and need the courage to dissolve it. Others may be in the right partnership but not walking well, in which case it needs to be strengthened.

Whatever the case Jesus' promise is that His yoke is easy and light and, as you walk with Him, you can learn from Him. One thing you can count upon as you walk with Him in partnership is that He will teach you the meaning of real partnership. The important question is 'who's in the 'car' with you?

The Bible Readings for this Wake Up Call are in Wake Up News at the foot of this email.

To request Wake Up Call for a friend send their name and email address to wakeupcall@worknetuk.org

Need some time to reflect on partnership? See the Wake Up News at the end of this email

WORK WELL
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WAKE UP NEWS:

Would you like to work with someone on issues of partnership? Our next Watchmaker retreat is being planned. Visit the Watchmaker section of our web site to check out your options or email Camille on info@worknetuk.org to register your interest.

Amos 3

³Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

2 Corinthians 6

¹⁴Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

¹⁷"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." ¹⁸"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Matthew 11

²⁸"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."