

CONFERENCE SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOP MAR 8TH – Notes

(Steve Sharpe)

Adjusting to Our Times: 3 Navigational Tools For Ministry

1. TACK FOR DRIFT

Heb. 2:1 We must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.

In Sailing Tack is . . . an alignment with the wind in the maneuver of turning between port and starboard.

In Ministry everyone drifts from their missional message. (the Greek word for drift can also mean ‘*to leak out*’). As ministry leaders we are to expect resistance to the missional message given to us by God. This resistance will cause leaders to drift from the message they have heard.

Ministry Tack is the navigational tool that goes with the resistance of the wind (and waves, currents and tides) maneuvering between port and starboard in the effort to lead people towards their missional destination. We cannot sail directly towards our destination without drift.

Discussion Questions for your Ministry:

Q1: What is your destination? (the truth you have heard)

Q2: What is the resistance to your ministry and/or destination? (represented by wind & waves, currents & tides – you must define the resistance and go with it to lead people forward)

Q3: What is your port tack? What is your starboard tack? Your tool becomes the strategy or tactic that enables people to overcome their resistance to change at each leg of their long journey towards their ministry destination. People move in steps . . . and arrive in stages.

2. [KEDGE] ANCHOR FOR SANDBARS

Heb. 6:18b-19 Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can take new courage, for we can hold on to his promise with confidence. This confidence is like a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain of heaven into God’s inner sanctuary.

For ships, a kedge (anchor) may be dropped while a ship is underway, or carried out in a suitable direction by a tender or ship’s boat to enable the ship to be winched off if aground or swung into a particular heading, or even to be held steady against a tidal or other stream.

Historically, it was of particular relevance to sailing warships which used them to outmaneuver opponents when the wind had dropped but might be used by any vessel in confined, shoal water to place it in a more desirable position, provided she had enough manpower.

Everyone’s ministry occasionally gets stuck on sandbars. Becoming stuck on a sandbar represents the loss of confidence in our leadership or ministry. The kedge anchor is our ministry tool to lead us out of potential danger (the storm or waves beating against us) and towards where God is leading.

Discussion Questions for your Ministry:

Q1: What is your sandbar? (your loss of confidence)

Q2: What is your [kedge] anchor? (your source of trust and strength)

Q3: Who is setting the anchor? Who is pulling on the rope? Who is with you to set you free? Your tool becomes the strategy or tactic that encourages people to overcome their resistance to change and become set free.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR HARBOURS

Heb. 10:38-11:1a And a righteous person will live by faith. But I will have no pleasure in anyone who turns away. But we are not like those who turn their backs on God and seal their fate. We have faith that assures our salvation. What is faith?

(Faith is not shrinking back (Greek literally “folding one’s sails” – meaning staying in the harbour and not taking advantage of opportunities which are presented as problems), but going forward towards Heb. 11:1)

The Latin term for opportunity is From the Latin *Ob-*, meaning "towards," and *portu(m)*, meaning "port."

The use of opportunity is to wait in a unified position towards the harbour until the wind / tide conditions allow safe passage into the harbour.

However, once ships have safely become refueled and repaired in the harbour, they are to continue on their journey / mission [towards the next harbour]. Harbours are our safe place . . . but we are not to remain in safety. God calls to “go” on his mission. In a similar way airports are places of opportunity to ‘land’ and ‘take-off’. Functional harbours anticipate both departures and arrivals.

Discussion Questions for your Ministry:

Q1: What is your ministry harbour? (how is your ministry launching [resourcing] people into ministry?)

Q2: What is your ministry opportunity? (how is your ministry a safe place for restoration [encouraging]?)

Q3: How effective is your mission / ministry? (are you measuring assimilation or turnover?)