



Reaching, Growing, Sharing Christ

The Biggest Defeat...

After Jesus ascended into heaven (Luke 24:51-53), Jesus' disciples had to quickly learn how to handle change and handle it well or the mission would have been a **defeat**. On the surface, things looked wonderful, but underneath the mission had become even greater. The disciples had to learn the mission of conquering their biggest adversary: **themselves, and/or a self-defeating attitude**.

As the disciples quickly learned to conquer their adversary of self defeat and fear ; they realized that three elements would distort and destroy the overall mission of leading people to Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Peter realized that **worrying /doubt** would not create an atmosphere for change, **panic** would only lead to chaos and uncontrolled rumors, creating an atmosphere of confusion and loss of focus, and **withholding secrets** would only lead people to speculations. The eleven and the others had a lot of work ahead, their leader (Christ) was no longer with them, Judas Iscariot a friend who travel with them for three years was no longer a disciple, deciding to abort the mission by betrayal. They were left to lead the change.



Like the disciples' story, this too, is a story that resonates with many Christians, churches, changing organizations, as well as those who are undergoing a personal and spiritual transformation. In order to successfully be a part of discovering a new story in change, we must see the need to change. So often, all too many people and organization miss an opportunity because they fail to see the need to change. The disciples understood this concept, that is why they followed the instructions to *remain unified in prayer and fellowship*, while waiting for the fulfillment of the Holy Spirit.

Peter understood that when we fail to meet the challenge of change and it's handle poorly, it places yourself at risk as well as others and confusions sets in.

In one of my favorite books *Our Iceberg is Melting* a colony of penguin had to face their greatest challenge. The challenge was to discover that it was time for the colony to make a location change in order to survive as a healthy colony of arctic penguins. Their **biggest adversary** was not that their iceberg was melting, it was the fear associated with realizing their iceberg was melting and it was time to do something different.

The colony of penguins had been there for many, many years. This colony was surrounded by a sea of rich food and shelter from the "dreadful winter" storms. As far back as the penguins could remember they had always lived on that iceberg, and this was their home. And confidently many would say "and this will always be our home". Little did the colony know that throughout the years their iceberg had become fragile and slowing began to deteriorate. Many of the members were curious to deal with its reality. The colony was a diverse group of penguins with different personalities and gifts:



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NoNo was apart of the colony, she was the skeptic, negative, cynical, while always having a lot to say without being willing to a take risk. **Alice** was brave, insightful, and a logical thinking penguin, willing to take risk , sometimes aggressive but smart. **Louis** was a bit conservative, not easily flustered, smart, but saw that the iceberg was melting. **Fred** was unsure and uncomfortable with dealing with moving. However diverse with many gifts and talents they discovered each gift could prepare the entire colony for one of the greatest blessing.

As the penguins worked together they discovered *“their iceberg is not who we are, it is only where they live. They were not chained to that piece of ice”*. The penguins discovered the most remarkable change, as too, the disciples.

God always reminds us, to not allow ourselves to hinder ourselves from becoming all the we can be in Christ. The most powerful weapon in this world is you, allowing your mind, heart, will, and desire to be given to the Lord Jesus Christ, in order that your plans and purpose may fulfill the master plan of Jesus Christ.

In discovering the Iceberg was melting:

- The pigeons created a sense of urgency in the colony to deal with a difficult problem.
- They carefully selected a group in charge of guiding the change.
- They found the sensible vision of a better future.
- They communicated that vision so others would understand it.
- They removed as many obstacles to action as was practical.
- They created some sort of success quickly.
- They never let up until the new way of life was firmly establish.
- And finally they ensured that the change would not be overcome by stubborn, hard to die tradition.

Isaiah 43:18-19 “But forget all that, it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something brand new. See, I have already begun. Do you not see it, say’s the Lord.

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