

L MESSAGE

Patterns of Detraction

Webster's Online Dictionary defines "detract" as a **verb**: "To take away a part from; to diminish something." The word is used about 180 times out of a sample of 100 million words spoken or written in English, yet *patterns of detracting* can and do affect our leadership everyday.

How many meetings have you been in where a subject has been spoken about, a vision cast, a value elevated and as a direct result something has actually occurred in the organisation? My hunch is that it's not as much as we would like. Often we spend a lot more time talking about things than actually doing them, and sometimes we don't actually do what we decide to do anyway. The same happens when we read books, hear a sermon, peruse an article, engage in a conversation, where we are challenged, we think the challenge is good, it makes sense it even excites us yet what occurs between that point and a potentially implemented change, can often detract us completely from the task.

In other words we engage in *The Pattern of Detraction*. This surfaced in my thinking as a leadership concern after being in lots of engaging vision developing leadership meetings, where we were being stretched, challenged and excited to go and change the world. Only to realise in subsequent meetings that nothing we had affirmed or decided should happen, actually did.

Often our cycles of conversation work toward the goal, but our actions do not complement them. As if we were closing in on taking a step toward the goal only to back down again. The question is why? Why is so much kingdom potential lost in the continual reigning patterns of detraction?

I think the answer lies in our 'lack of' mentality. We more often than not work out of a 'lack of', which prevents us from actually doing. Let me give you an example: You're sitting in a meeting and someone comes up with a great idea that everyone agrees we should do. So the ideas of how it may be done begin to circle, we brainstorm, we come up with some great insights, agree that we need to do it, and the meeting comes to a close. A month later we meet again and after a brief review we realise nothing has been done. Why? Because something interrupted the flow between 'Let's do it' and it *being done* and that something is a pathway of detraction.

There are patterns in our leadership that detract from what we ultimately want to see occur and what God hopes we will put in place. We say yes to an idea, but we don't do it because of our *lack of* faith, or *lack of* resources, or *lack of* passion, or *lack of* energy, and the list goes on. These things are built into our leadership psyches and act as road blocks to brilliant ideas.

In the next episode I will outline what some of those *lack ofs* are and how we might counter them. Patterns of detraction come from a 'lack of' mentality and play out in a 'some day soon' type of language.

CHALLENGE

What *lack of*, built into your leadership psyche might be exercising its strengths in your leadership decisions?

RESOURCE

I've had a few people ask about books, resources, web pages, and articles that may inform stretch and challenge your thinking. So from time to time I'll refer you to a resource that I have benefited from and can confidently recommend. This week it's: <http://www.catalystmonthly.com/> I'll leave you to explore it.

THE PATTERN OF DETRACTION

