

September 10, 2023

## Supply Lines: Strategic Thinkers (2 Chronicles 32:1-8)

*Soak in the wisdom of those who share your chair.*

### Hook – Made to Do (5min)

- Welcome, Connect Card, Notes
- Book
- Early in the church plant, everyone needed to help, including our young kids – which was great! (next week, Supply Lines for Next Gen). But as time went on, I was still trying to do too much.
- Paul Kayser, a good and godly friend, was helping lead Setup at the time. He pushed back, “You need to stop doing this. We got it.” I said that I wanted to do what I could do. He didn’t back down. “You have a job to do. Let us do our job.”
- He was right – and his challenge unlocked a lot inside of me. I am good at a lot of things. But the question is not **what can I do, but what has God made me to do?**
- Today – Strategic Thinkers...the people who help you think through systems and use time wisely.

### Prayer

### Hezekiah’s Tunnel (7min)

- \*2 Chronicles 32:1-8 (p.387)
- Context
  - Hezekiah was a faithful (but not perfect) king in the southern kingdom, Judah, during the time of Isaiah the prophet. He unified his people around the worship of the Lord – especially rest, celebrating the Lord’s holidays, and taking care of religious leaders.
  - But the Assyrian Empire had destroyed Israel and was threatening to destroy Judah. Hezekiah trusted in the Lord and did not cave into fear.
  - He ALSO made strategic preparations. WE NEED BOTH.

<sup>1</sup> After Hezekiah had faithfully carried out this work, King Sennacherib of Assyria invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified towns, giving orders for his army to break through their walls.

<sup>2</sup> When Hezekiah realized that Sennacherib also intended to attack Jerusalem, <sup>3</sup> he consulted with his officials and military advisers, and they decided to stop the flow of the springs outside the city.

<sup>4</sup> They organized a huge work crew to stop the flow of the springs, cutting off the brook that ran through the fields. For they said, “Why should the kings of Assyria come here and find plenty of water?”

<sup>5</sup> Then Hezekiah worked hard at repairing all the broken sections of the wall, erecting towers, and constructing a second wall outside the first. He also reinforced the supporting terraces in

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the City of David and manufactured large numbers of weapons and shields. <sup>6</sup> He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them before him in the square at the city gate. Then Hezekiah encouraged them by saying: <sup>7</sup> “Be strong and courageous! Don’t be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria or his mighty army, for there is a power far greater on our side! <sup>8</sup> He may have a great army, but they are merely men. We have the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles for us!” Hezekiah’s words greatly encouraged the people.

- **\*My story**

- Later would feed the Pool of Siloam, where Jesus healed the man born blind (John 9).
- I have walked in this tunnel. I was in college on an Israel trip – the water was up to our waist at some points, but generally it was around our shins. Our teacher took us through the tunnel as an adventure – but he also stopped to teach us the life lesson.
- Prepare for the invasion before it happens. Barns are best filled before the famine.
- Seek out support.

- **\*Soak in the wisdom of those who share your chair.**

- Prayer is the plow – good strategy is no substitute for authentic devotion.
- AND God’s way includes wise strategy.
  - It is NOT unspiritual to use strategy.
  - Check out Hezekiah – and the entire book of Proverbs! And Jesus!

## Supply Lines CARD and Circles – picture (5min)

- **\*\*Picture of Cards (examples)**

- There are examples in the book of how I coached church planters.
  - Gaps from missing whole Supply Lines.
  - Or you don’t meet regularly.
  - Or it is all the same 1-2 people, or your family.
- Be honest about your gaps – you can’t change what you refuse to acknowledge.
- I have done this – it can happen! This opens up bigger doors.

- **Strengthen support through your circles.**

- Wide circle (big groups), second circle (small groups, teams) – backup support, inner circle – monthly meetings (and crisis support).
- You find your inner circle people through the other circles – so stay in church, events, groups, and teams.
- Remember there are five different types of support we all need.
- **We all need Strategic Thinkers – people who share our chair and can think strategically and practically to get things done. Find them!**

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## Ford vs Ferrari clip (5min)

- Setup – Ford has paid for a car to win LeMans, and hired Shelby to build the car, but Ford’s right-hand man wants to take control. Shelby is the right man, and he is going to prove it.
- \*Show clip
- **If you want to be better, you need to find mentors and coaches who are better. If you want to be the best, you need to find the best.**

## Strategic Thinkers (8min)

- **\*Strategic Thinkers are connected to the right people.**
  - Church planters – you don’t need to know everyone; you just need to know someone who knows everyone.
    - Meet with them OFTEN. This is time that saves you time.
    - You don’t need to learn it if you can find someone else who already knows it. Technical details – computers, finances, facilities, leadership, emotional intelligence, counseling, teaching, events, and more.
  - My friend Kevin – very strategic, and he knows a lot of people. I ask him a problem, and he won’t ask about my soul or heart (even though he cares about them), he gives me good strategy and points me to experts who can help me even more.
- **\*Strategic Thinkers share your chair.**
  - Orville Wright was born in 1871. His father was an ordained minister and Orville was the second youngest of five children. Wilbur and Orville worked with gears and machines – taking that expertise and applying it to gliders...and then to the first motor-powered flight on December 17, 1903.
    - They were an incredible source of support for each other. A lot of that included a technical knowledge that other people just didn’t “get.”
    - To pastors (and everyone) – you need people who share your chair. It saves a lot of time explaining or defending yourself. It gives you a lot of experience, too.
  - Soak in the wisdom of those who share your chair.
- **\*Strategic Thinkers understand systems (and strategy).**
  - Wilbur died in 1912, and Orville lost a huge source of relational support. Rather than quitting aviation, Orville sold the company and joined the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA). Orville was surrounded and supported by like-minded people. In his lifetime, the speed of the airplane increased to almost 1000 miles per hour, this opened the door for space travel. And 10 years after Orville’s death, NACA was transformed into NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Agency).
    - Orville could not have done this alone.
  - Most people don’t understand systems or how organizations work.

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- Most church planters are youth or associate pastors – they are jumping into the deep end. Why the Covenant requires coaching.
  - But coaching can turn into counseling.
  - Share counseling with your Heart Healer – and systems and strategy with your Strategic Thinker.
- Soak in the wisdom of those who share your chair.

## Punch – Gas Station (2-5min)

- Do you know where the closest gas station is to church? To your house? To your job?
- We ALL pay attention to gas stations because we know we won't go far without fuel.
- Have the same mentality for our Supply Lines.
- Grab this card – find your gaps – strengthen support through your circles – and find godly and wise people who share your chair and can give practical, strategic guidance.

### Prayer

#### Benediction – Col 2:7

- Prayer Team available
- Fight Hunger – next week!