

Leadership Practicals for MTLs

(created by Wes Gow)

Don't Ascribe or Assume Intent

- *Scenario:* You just got the email you were waiting for: that team member cancelled on you again! Or worse, they didn't show up at all.
- *What's my first reaction?* Ascribe intent, and it's always *malintent*, meaning that by my reaction it's evident that I'm assuming that they are intentionally seeking to harm me.
- *What do I want to do?* Immediately fire off a response email or text that barely (at best) hides my frustration.
- *What should I do?*
 - Breathe, and recognize your desired reaction.
 - Let it go for an hour at least.
 - Draft a response that errs on the side of being positive, even if you think it risks communicating that this is acceptable. Let a friend proof read it.
 - Later on, after the day or event, reach out to them to connect via phone or personal conversation and let them know that you appreciate them, but that this pattern is causing you stress. Ask if they can help find a solution.
- *Thoughts from Scripture:*
 - Proverbs 10:21 *"The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of judgement."*
 - Proverbs 12:16 *"A fools shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult."*
 - Proverbs 14:29 *"A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly."*
- *Gospel Application:*
 - Ask yourself, "What's driving my reaction?" Is it comfort? Power? Control? Approval?
 - Comfort driven: *Now I've got to stop what I'm doing and divert my attention to this problem.*
 - Power driven: *No one respects me.*
 - Control driven: *This isn't how this is supposed to work out.*
 - Approval driven: *Avoiding the conversation.*
 - Recognize and remember that Jesus became each of those and that because of His sacrifice, God no longer harbors any frustration toward Jesus, you, or that team member. Respond and seek resolution out of that posture of grace!