

Leadership Practicals for MTLs (created by Wes Gow)

- **Mind the Gap**

If you've travelled at all in Europe then you've probably seen the sign on the upper portion of this page on every tram, train, or subway: "Mind The Gap." Basically its purpose is to draw your attention to the space between where you're standing and where you're going, the literal gap between the transportation and the walking surface upon arrival.

So what does an iconic Euro travel sign have to do with leadership and Ministry Teams? In the same way that a gap exists between the train and the platform, we all live with "gaps" in our lives. These can be described or identified as the *distance between your desired outcome and your present reality*, or your expectations and your abilities. The gap is always there in some form or fashion. Here are some examples:

- The college student who dreams of a future life with a family and a career, but is currently up at 3:00am cramming for finals.
- The new parents who looks forward to the day when his kids are in school, but they're throughout the night trying to get their baby back to sleep.
- The Ministry Team Leader who longs for more reliable "A-team" members, or a better expression/manifestation of the ministry they are working in (Children's Ministry, Worship, Hospitality).
- My (Wes) own personal expectations or longings for our church.

This gap even exists in all of us on a spiritual level: we've been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, but we live in the tension that we're not yet fully restored to His likeness; we still feel the effects of sin. In 2 Corinthians 3:18 Paul says that we are all being "*are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory*," and in Philippians 1:6 he writes that "*being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus*." The already, but not yet. The gap.

But not only do we recognize that this gap exists, we can also recognize that there is an innate desire to bridge that gap. So what are we to do with this tension? Many things could be said but I'm gonna land squarely on this because it's been the most important reminder for my own heart: *always be testing the stuff the bridge is being made of*. By that I simply mean that the desire to bridge the gap can stem from wrong heart motivations: power, comfort, control, approval. Whatever that gap looks like in your life, you can be about the business of pursuing a good dream or vision and yet be doing so for all the wrong reasons. Build the bridge, but always test the stuff the bridge is being made of.