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DREAMING BIG: PERSONAL STRATEGIC VISION

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“Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others.”
Jonathan Swift

Leadership Article:

“Building Your Company’s Vision” by Jim Collins

<https://hbr.org/1996/09/building-your-companys-ou>

Questions:

- What challenged you in Collins’ article?
- What seemed obvious?
- What do you think you should integrate from this article into your own leadership?

Reflective Questions:

Take out your magic wand. Today you get to use it to magically transform three aspects of your own leadership. Name them below. Then list three aspects of your leadership you want to keep the same.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now think hard about the specific action steps you need to take, big AND small, to begin to “be the change.” Please elaborate...

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being terrible and 10 being outstanding, rate your strategic thinking. Strategic thinking is a combination of plan-fulness, discipline and vision.

What number do you think you need right now for your leadership to be more effective?

Jewish Text Study:

Jacob's First Dream/Genesis 28

10 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. 11 When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. 12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. 15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." 16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

Jacob's Second Dream/Genesis 31

1 Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father." 2 And Jacob noticed that Laban's attitude toward him was not what it had been. 3 Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you." 4 So Jacob sent word to Rachel and Leah to come out to the fields where his flocks were. 5 He said to them, "I see that your father's attitude toward me is not what it was before, but the God of my father has been with me. 6 You know that I've worked for your father with all my strength, 7 yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times. However, God has not allowed him to harm me. 8 If he said, 'The speckled ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks gave birth to speckled young; and if he said, 'The streaked ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked young. 9 So God has taken away your father's livestock and has given them to me. 10 "In breeding season I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats mating with the flock were streaked, speckled or spotted. 11 The angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.' I answered, 'Here I am.' 12 And he said, 'Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. 13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.' "

Text Questions

1. Read both texts out-loud and circle one verse in each passage that you find strange or inspiring and explain why.
2. Describe in brief what you think each dream is about.
3. Now compare Jacob's dreams – when and where they occur and what they mean.
4. Have you ever had a dream that pushed you to take a particular action in your waking life?
5. Name some big Jewish dreams we should be thinking about as a leader.

An Exercise in Personal Strategic Thinking:

Write a personal vision statement. A personal vision statement is a written picture of you in the future, let's say five years from now. It is about dreams and your imagination as they relate to a lofty but realistic sense of who you want to be and what you want to contribute to the world. In a vision statement, we try to create a lofty set of personal objectives. There are four critical aspects to a great personal statement: that it is written and that it is in the present tense. It should cover all core aspects of your life and have details that anchor it to reality. This statement should be no more than a paragraph. You might begin this exercise with the following words:

I am...

Now describe the strategy you need to employ to achieve it.