

DO IT FOR A DAY

DAY 27 – IT TAKES A TEAM

The three-strand rope is not easily broken!

Ecclesiastes 4:12

In 1468, a fourteen-year-old boy named Leonardo, from a town called Vinci, moved seventy miles (112.6 km) east to be apprenticed to an artist named Andrea del Verrocchio. Florence, in Italy, was not a big city, it only had about forty thousand inhabitants. But there was a large concentration of creatives. Florence was a city of artists, and the incubators were creative collaborations called workshops. Florence was proud to have fifty-four workshops. One of them was that of Verrocchio. Something interesting? Many of the pieces that were produced in these workshops during the Renaissance did not have a signature, because they were not the work of any particular artist.

Art was a team effort. So too is habit formation! We need people in our life who believe in us more than ourselves.

We need people who push us to push our limits. We also need people to make us react when necessary. Why? “Iron sharpens iron, and man sharpens man.”¹ The friction of competition is an example. The polishing of friendship is another.

The goal of this book is to help you discover your potential. Habit formation is a team effort. I'm not suggesting that you turn to friends as a lifeline, but friendships must have some intentionality. What do you want to become? **Spend time with those kind of people!** David had his strong men. Elisha had the company of the prophets. Even Jesus had his twelve disciples! If we are following the example of Jesus, we will surround ourselves with carefully chosen people in prayer. **What is the teaching?** It takes a team to make a dream come true.

After having spent four years as an apprentice, Leonardo da Vinci continued in Verrocchio's workshop. He spent a decade learning from the master artist. Verrocchio and Leonardo worked together on a piece called The Baptism of Christ. Google it! There are two angels in that painting: the one on the right is Verrocchio's angel and the one on the left is Leonardo's. . The student became a teacher!

But there is a kind of genius who can discover another genius. Was not Jesus one of them? He saw in his disciples the potential that no one else saw. Without the genius being able to detect other geniuses, a lot of them would be buried. Potential goes undiscovered, talents go to waste, and opportunities lie on the table.

Artists need other artists. Leaders need other leaders. Coaches need coaches.

As a leader you have to see the ecosystem that each person represents. When I partner with a leader, I'm not only investing time in them, but also in their organization.

When I spend time with a coach, I am investing in their team. When I spend time with a father, I am investing in his children. I even take out the accounts sometimes. I have had meetings with people who run companies, and also with people who lead nations. In a sense, I'm getting together with every person they represent. That mindset adds value to the time invested, and it has a domino chain reaction.

At the end of the epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul shared a list of who's who, which includes about twenty names. Phoebe, Urban, Andronicus, Olympas, Erastus, Fourth. For us it is as boring as the list of the "begotten" in Genesis, but for Paul those people were his world. They were his best friends, his confidants. They were the ones who risked their lives for him. This was Pablo's luxury equipment!

Who is on your Romans 16 list?

When was the last time you thanked them?

Author and entrepreneur Jim Rohn is famous for saying that we are the average of the five people we spend the most time with. Can I raise the bet to twelve? Let's face it: the disciples weren't the best by popular standards. They were ordinary in every way, except for one: that they spent three years with Jesus! They were sitting in the front row every time Jesus told a parable or performed a miracle. They drank of the water turned into wine. They ate of the five loaves and two fish that fed thousands. For three years they hiked, camped, and fished together!

Do you remember how the Sanhedrin classified the disciples? He called them "without studies or preparation." True, they may not have had academic credentials, but the Sanhedrin did. "*They recognized that they had been with Jesus*".⁶ That was their DNA (astonishing and remarkable difference).

Our prayer pastor, Heidi Scanlon, has no accountability partners. She has "expectability" partners. I like that language! Oftentimes, accountability partners put a lot of focus on how we deal with the sin. Of course we need people to help us hold ourselves to certain standards. But also **we need people who wait and bring out the best in us**. Those people take us to a higher level. An expectation partner asks you this question: "**What are you waiting for from God?**". And those sanctified expectations need to go beyond our ability and our resources.

If you surround yourself with bad role models, it's hard not to incorporate their bad habits. According to the science of social media, if a friend of yours becomes obese, you are 45% more likely to gain weight in the next two to four years. Of course the reverse is also true. Your friends can help you become healthier. Either way, that's a function of our mirror neurons. **Bad companies corrupt good customs, but good ones sanctify them.**

HOW DO YOU TRANSFORM IT INTO A HABIT?

Choosing your friends wisely!

When it comes to creating habits, Benjamin Franklin is a hero. He was a fan of cultivating thirteen virtues, to the point of keeping a habit journal, as we mentioned in Day 5. But Franklin knew he couldn't reach his potential alone.

What did he do then? In 1727 he formed the Leather Apron Club, with the purpose of helping each other improve. It was an eclectic group that included philosophers and cabinetmakers, merchants and mathematicians, printers and surveyors. They met on Friday nights to discuss topics ranging from physics to philosophy to politics.

“When geese fly in a V formation, the overall efficiency increases by 71%. There's nothing more to say. With whom are you flying? Who are the ones who set the pace for you? Who is making you push yourself past the 40% rule we talked about on day 3? There's no way to unleash your full potential if you don't surround yourself with the right people, but I'll go a little further. Over time, the key to success is surrounding yourself with the right people. They will help you fly further, faster.

It takes a team!”

Excerpt From

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