

Charlie's Creativity Podcast Series number 66

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You know what I've been working on? I've been trying hard to get these podcasts transcribed and turned into a book. I've been busy trying to read my pen and ink scribbles in my special podcast journals. You see, I'm a pen freak and a journal freak, so it gives me lots of pleasure to sit in my spot on the couch and write in a journal. So, obviously, to turn journal entries into a book, lots of typing is involved. At first, the task looked quite daunting and I thought, what a waste of time, a bunch of mind numbing typing, but the more I re-read my articles, the more value I received. I'm not the brightest guy in terms of long term memory (probably short term isn't that much better either), but getting a new look at my recorded thoughts was actually a treat. So that's what's been occupying my spare time. I intend to have this project complete before I celebrate the resurrection of my Lord and Savior on April 4th. My other Lenten discipline is the daily wearing of a cross. I have a number of crosses made from wood, nails, and cloth, but my favorite is one that was made out of threads pulled from a towel supplied to a prison inmate I once visited.

If you're new to this podcast series, welcome! My name is Charlie Gross. I have been podcasting since January 2008. I usually average a podcast about every 14 days. Most are about great books that I've been reading and the thoughts that they give me in relation to my work in executive ministry.

Have I told you my process for turning a Kindle book into a podcast? This is relatively recent, since I only got my Kindle DX in August and then later discovered some of the real power of taking notes on it.

Here's what I do. I download a book from Amazon into my Kindle. Right through the air and it only takes about 30 seconds and 9 or 10 bucks charged to my card. Then, while I read the book, I click a button and underline and book mark parts to emphasize or remember. When I'm done, I connect the Kindle to my netbook and download the file

called “my clippings.” This is a neat text file with the underlined segments of the book. From that I simply need to chop, edit, flip, cut and paste until it makes some sort of sense.

For today’s cast I’m using the above technique to do a very brief summary of Seth Godin’s book, Linchpin. I gobbled this book up. Godin’s writing style and thinking create a beautiful symphony for me. There are great motivating lessons in this read and it’s the type of book that speaks to my heart.

Mr. Godin encourages all of us to become artists. To produce. To work for excellence. To become linchpins. For, linchpins deliver art. They do work that needs to get done. They are focused. Responsible. Productive. Experimental. They solve interesting problems and they lead, quoting the author.

Linchpins create value for customers and they ship deliverables. They meet deadlines and are rigorous about this. They don’t shrink back from difficult conundrums. They may feel the fear of uncharted territory, but move ahead and work toward completion.

Completed projects are the new resumes. Show, don’t tell, writes Godin. Show the results of your work, don’t just talk about the plans or make excuses.

Let me conclude this brief summary with a few powerful quotes from the book:
“Wait! Are You Saying That I Have to Stop Following Instructions and Start Being an Artist? Someone Who Dreams Up New Ideas and Makes Them Real? Someone Who Finds New Ways to Interact, New Pathways to Deliver Emotion, New Ways to Connect? Someone Who Acts Like a Human, Not a Cog? Me? ” Yes says the author.

Perhaps you need to get in touch with what it means to feel passionate. People with passion look for ways to make things happen. The combination of passion and art is what makes someone a linchpin. Mr. Godin’s fundamental argument here is simple: In everything you do, it’s possible to be an artist, at least a little bit. And, passion is caring

enough about your art that you will do almost anything to give it away, to make it a gift, to change people.

I don't know what you're thinking or feeling, but me, I'm more inspired, more enthused, and more jazzed after time spent with Linchpin. Let's go out and make some art for the world and bless those around us. Have an awesome week! Bye for now!