

Lessons from Daniel

All,

Thank you so much for coming here today. The support we've seen this week has been amazing from the emails, to the calls, to the facebook posts, to the dinners and to you all just being here - thank you. Thank you. This has been an incredibly difficult week for all of us, and the support means a lot. All of us here will need that support into the future as well.

South African Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu once said: "We are who we are through our relationships with one another; this is the essence of being human."

And Daniel Glass, my younger brother, was certainly human.

And I looked up to him, and not just because he ended up being taller. But because he would hear me say a nice quote from some famous and respected person and he would point out that it was kind of wrong. Plenty of other things, he would say, like plants, fungi are defined and survive based on their relationships with one another. Ok Daniel, so what is the essence of being human? And I bet his answer would be something like: we are the primates of the family Hominidae and the only extant species of the genus Homo. Great thanks dan. But still, what is the essence of being human?

Well I'm not sure, and in thinking about everything Daniel taught me, I know that what he ultimately did, was teach me how to be human.

Many times when people who knew me met my brother for the first time, they would say something like: you and your brother are so different. I can't believe you are related." I never quite knew what to think of that statement. When I was younger, I interpreted that as Daniel needed to be more like me: shower everyday, focus on getting along, don't make waves. But as I got older and did my own exploring, I realized that I needed to be a bit more like Daniel. Not in the sense of not wearing clean clothes, but in

being more courageous, authentic, funny, and loving.

Dan was courageous. Sure, courageous in the generic way of spending days on the open ocean on a 48 foot sailboat or fishing, or rock climbing, or exploring new places. But more importantly, he was courageous for being himself. So much of our existence is dealing with society. We are groomed by the television, our parents, our peers, and schools to be a certain way. We think everything will be ok, if we just all abide by the certain rules and expectations we've set for ourselves over the generations. And every so often, there comes a person who looks at all that and realizes the emperor has no clothes. Many people don't know how to handle that. It threatens them and their sense of self. But the old ones, the young ones, and the smart ones - they love it. When a person like Daniel comes around to make them think differently, to challenge them, to engage them - it is transcendent. It makes us see how amazing we all are and our planet. The people who have the courage to challenge us to find new ways of thinking are what advance us individually and as a whole. And Daniel had the courage to do that.

Daniel was authentic. Authentic is the buzzword floating around business and political classes. Oh, I can motivate my people by being authentic and then I'll be successful. Very few people really knows what it means though. They think it involves things like 'active listening' and saying how you feel. And you ask people to define the term authentic, and they get a blank look and say something like "oh, it is being yourself." Well, ok, yes. But first you have to know yourself. And Daniel knew himself, loved himself, and shared himself. That was being authentic. And authentic is unique. Everyone is different, but for the most part, we pretend we aren't. So, when Daniel came around in celebration of all who he was, we listened. Not because we felt like he had to, but because we wanted to. Because he had novel things to say. Because he made us look at the world in a different way. Because he was funny.

Daniel was funny in the way a joker is funny to a king. Funny in the way that

makes you realize your own ridiculousness. He would say things like: Last year I saw a giant albatross, I tasted its tears. They were delicious.

And that might be what I'm going to miss the most about Daniel. His irreverent, insightful, and biting humor. A few weeks ago, on a Saturday morning, I missed a call from Daniel and he left a voicemail. He said "morning, richard, you are probably out at home depot getting stuff for your house projects on this beautiful saturday morning." I listened to the voicemail and smiled because I was in the Ikea checkout line. I think Daniel was out on a fishing boat catching salmon or out collecting chanterelle mushrooms from the forest. His existence and comments and the way he lived his life, brought me back to what is important and why we are all here.

And what is important? It is love. Daniel loved people. He loved his friends and his family. He loved his cat kaya. And loved in the sense that he was accepting and fascinated with everyone. As my wife Amanda says "he brought out the best in me." And I'm sure that is true for everyone here. Daniel brought out the best in all of us. Though, now that I think about it, he could also bring out the worst. Daniel was my brother and we would fight. He knew how to piss me off better than anyone. And it usually involved a conflict between me taking the safe route and Dan pushing me to take a risk. Or it just involved me trying to get him to brush his teeth or wear a pair of pants that didn't have grease stains all over them. But it became ok and it was actually a bit refreshing when he would get under my skin. There aren't a lot of people that you've been with since their birth, and I'm not sure I understand myself right now without him.

But we still have the question: what is the essence of being human? Sure, it is the physical being, but many of us did not see Daniel everyday and maybe only a few times a year if we were lucky. We would get emails, text, and calls. But I would say that the essence of being human is the idea of someone. You know this person exists and he helps define you. You understand the world a bit better because of how he viewed it and

reflected on it. You can bounce ideas off of him and see what he thinks. It is an idea of the person that keeps someone alive. And now that Daniel is gone, there are no new memories to be made with him. We won't be getting new logs with uncanny insights into the human condition. We won't be listening to fascinating stories. We won't be eating his food. But we can still think of him and remember him. And as we go through the rest of our lives, we all need to be a bit more courageous, authentic, funny and loving. We all need to be a bit more like Daniel.