

Kaizen and Jesus Christ

“Lean manufacturing involves **continuous improvement (Kaizen)** by **removing waste (Muda)** from all processes, both manufacturing and administrative. Customers will only pay for perceived value. Adding value means performing work that customers will pay for. Waste is adding cost but not adding value. Customers will not pay for inspections, for handling items or for shuffling paper or for holding inventories, all items that add great cost. Customers don’t pay for waste. We pay for waste, both fiscally and by making us less competitive. Kaizen must become a way of life for all employees. A kaizen doesn’t last 3 ½ days; it is an ever-present religion.” A “*Sample Company*” *Quality Policy Quote*.

What does a company’s quality policy have to do with God?

Quality is necessary and important in all areas of life. If one area of a process has poor quality, the entire process is affected.

Quality has always been important to God. We find in that humans were made to extremely exacting standards be God himself (*Genesis 1*). We also soon find out that unless an efficient quality policy is in place and enforced that poor quality and waste develops. (*Genesis 3*). Sin in any form is deterrence from the set quality standards. It is waste, or Muda. When sin is present it affects all parts of a process, or all aspects of a person’s life. (*Romans 6:23*).

With Kaizen, people are very important. It is the employees that serve the customers. This is also true with God. People are the most important focus for God as they are His creations. When one of His creations has sin, Muda, or waste, the value and quality of their lives and all other lives around that person are affected in negative ways. We see God performing a quality audit and finding that this is exactly what has taken place (*Genesis 3*). Adam and Eve had failed in the process by disobeying or not conforming to God’s quality standards. This affected every other person also, as all people all their descendants. Since then no person was able to meet God’s perfect standard of quality (*Romans 3:23*).

This placed God in a position. He not only created people, made the quality standard, but now it was up to Him to initiate a corrective action to remove the waste from the process of life (*Romans 5:8*). That is why Jesus came. He was God’s Living Quality Policy (*John 1:14*). “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes (adheres to His Divine Quality Policy) would not perish but have everlasting life” (*John 3:16*).

Jesus took the Muda, waste, and sin upon Himself (*Isaiah 53:5*). This allowed all people to come back in line with God’s quality standards. The standards are written out clearly in the Bible.

For Kaizen to work, companies ask for people to live it out like a religion.

For God’s Divine Quality Policy to work, God asks for people to come in daily relationship with Jesus Christ.

There was an important person in the Bible who took time to explain God’s Quality Policy named Paul. He was like a Vice President of Operations. He noticed that people could be very religious, (or regimented in their own quality policies or Kaizen) but miss the whole meaning of life (*Acts 17:22*). If we are not careful, we will miss out on the true purpose we were originally made for, “so that we should seek the Lord, in the hope that we might reach for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each of us” (*Acts 17:27*).

Today where do you measure up? Will you take the chance and possibly be permanently rejected by God’s Quality Policy? Or will you come in line, repent and ask God for forgiveness, and ask to start a relationship with Jesus Christ today? The choice is yours. Remember that for a quality policy to truly work, it must be lived daily.