Session 8: 10 Leadership Qualities, and Strategies to Develop Them Within Yourself

“Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done...because he wants to do it.” -Dwight D. Eisenhower

If this occurs, leadership has been evidenced and expressed.

- First Things First – Emergency Preparedness
  - Behind almost every smile, there are tears
  - We all face moments of relationship stress, illness, death, or a combination of all
  - What will you do about this stress so that you are not frozen in your tracks, unable to move forward?
  - The world does not wait for us to get our act together
    - Moments of opportunity typically are fleeting
    - When the moment of opportunity comes, how do you prepare for it?
  - Sometimes, the unspeakable happens
    - Into every life, a little rain must fall
    - The reality is, sometimes the storm is big, and it can seem relentless!
    - At the moment that the storm comes, life does not put itself on hold
    - These moments of pain are opportunities for the greatest growth
  - What is your emergency preparedness strategy?
    - Do you have one? If not, this lack of preparation will one day have a big price
    - The strategy must revolve around one’s spiritual wellbeing at the time of the storm
    - Prepare so that you can respond in positive ways to the inevitable

- Leadership Qualities (as listed in a recent Forbes Magazine article)
  1. Honesty
  2. Ability to Delegate
  3. Communication
  4. Sense of Humor
  5. Confidence
  6. Commitment
  7. Positive Attitude
  8. Creativity
  9. Intuition
  10. Ability to Inspire

- ...but how do you develop these qualities such that you get, “someone else to do something you want done...because he wants to do it.”

- Decide how successful you want to be, and then decide how many of these teachings you want to act upon and improve

- Honesty
  - Honesty with kindness, compassion, and love
  - “The skill to do comes from the doing.”
  - Character development comes from daily decisions and behaviors...again, little things matter
  - There is likely no character attribute which, when properly developed, will pay more relationship dividends than honesty
    - Three keys to becoming more happy, more of the time are physical health, spiritual health, and relationship health
  - “White lies” are lies
    - The more that you measure them, the more infrequent they become
    - How rigorously honest are you about the events of your daily life?
  - What’s your line in the sand?
There has to be a line – when is the time of rigorous honesty not the kind and compassionate thing to do?
That which is measured can be improved!

- When business partners, clients, and counterparts know they can trust you, opportunities abound

**Ability to Delegate**
- *The one man band seldom plays to a packed house…and if so, not for very long*  
- An ability to delegate is an expression of humility  
- An ability to delegate is an expression of trust  
  - A lack of ability to trust one who is not trustworthy is wisdom  
  - A lack of ability to trust one who *is* trustworthy is a character flaw born in fear  
- Is humility attractive?  
- Is trust attractive?  
- Address the character flaw of arrogance in order to increase humility and your ability to trust others  
  - Eliminate self-centered fear in your life  
- Have you been micromanaged?  
  - Did it feel good? No  
  - Were you in any way empowered by it? No

**Communication**
- Closely trailing integrity in leadership essentials is an absolute requirement to develop effective communication skills  
- Become a more effective communicator by learning...*read, read, read, read*  
- This is also much about listening more before speaking  
- The person with whom you communicate cares more about what they believe than what you believe  
- For greatest success (unless you are in lecture mode) make your communication goal 65% listen and 35% speak...there is absolute magic in this formula!  
- The vast majority who are in any kind of capacity where they are trying to influence others to take action are speaking too much and listening too little to have influence

**Sense of Humor**
- “A sense of humor is part of the art of leadership.” -Dwight D. Eisenhower  
- Here, a bit of self-discovery is important to answer the following:  
  - Is your response to a challenge or mistake to:  
    - Catastrophize it?  
    - Minimize it?  
    - Both of these are very big errors that will stand in the way of success  
  - Develop the skill of right sizing and effectively reducing the impact of the situation by proper use of minimalist humor  
    - Leaders who have great impact have this ability  
- The above falls into the all-important communication category...but it is worthy of its own segment  
- HUGE results follow this skill development!

**Confidence!**
- Would anyone choose to follow a leader who lacks conviction in direction?  
- As a leader, you have an obligation to have confidence in direction  
  - Not all directions we choose will be correct  
  - Act with prudence, wisdom, and caution  
- How does one gain confidence in direction?  
  - Refer to Nehemiah’s leadership expression in marshaling the efforts of a balky community to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (Session 5)  
- Always carefully monitor your motives
• Create careful strategies with a specific plan

• Commitment
  • “I believe when you are in any contest, you should work like there is always a last minute chance to lose it. This is a battle, this is politics, this is anything (*includes business*). So, I just see no excuse if you believe anything enough for not putting your whole heart into it. That is what I do.” - Dwight D. Eisenhower
  • A committed leader will inspire confidence in those they lead
  • Is your commitment to the task at hand similar to that referenced above?
    ▪ If so, others will buy into your vision
    ▪ If not, look behind you – there will be few followers
  • If you lack commitment, review the previous sessions to find the reason why

• Positive Attitude
  • Having a positive attitude is not an activity, it is a complete result of your daily input – it is an outcome.
  • What is your daily input?
    ▪ Be careful of what you watch, read, and listen to – learn on purpose
  • Is your glass half empty or full?
    ▪ It should and can be overflowing

• Creativity
  • How does one become and remain nimble, quick to adjust, and yet resolute in core commitments?
  • When there is a roadblock in your path:
    ▪ If it is in the way and violates your core commitments, bang on it until it comes down
    ▪ If it does not violate core commitments to go around or over it, then make an adjustment, get around it, and be on your way!
  • This is an advanced leadership skill
  • It is far more likely that one gives up on core commitment too soon, rather than correctly utilizing creativity and ascertaining whether it is appropriate to go around

• Intuition
  • Intuition: the ability to understand something immediately, without the need for conscious reasoning
  • Is this not really a form of God consciousness?
  • This demands that we have a conscious contact with God so that we are able to respond to these promptings
  • So how, then, do we foster this state of awareness?

• Ability to Inspire
  • Inspire: to fill with an animating, quickening, or exalting influence
  • Is that not a reference to deity?
    ▪ This goes back to our most basic beliefs
  • How do we first gain this inspiration?
    ▪ An ability to inspire demands that we are inspired ourselves
    ▪ We must find a way to connect ourselves with God (in the way that we understand God)

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