

Humility - A Key Attribute of Leadership

Leadership is a very humbling experience. Norman Vincent Peale is quoted “People with humility do not think less of themselves, they just think of themselves less!

This is a key attribute of leadership. How do I think of others first to help them achieve success? When an employee is given an assignment expectations must be clear, measure of success understood and knowledge of where to go for help when it is needed. Leadership embraces the success of others and does not fear it. Leadership wants to develop people’s talent so they are consistently doing the right things. Leadership does not play the game of “gotcha” but instead follows the rule of clear expectations, and fair and consistent follow-up for everyone.

Leaders manage change but change can be tough to manage. It can also be very rewarding. Leaders get out from behind their offices to expose themselves as a real and vulnerable person to those around them. They are willing to demonstrate that they are not perfect. Leaders can laugh at themselves and their experience and pass it off as a life lesson because each event has a specific purpose of teaching new skills or honing their existing ones.

When you are leading you want to achieve results, such as increasing the bottom line of your company, so choose to work with confident people that can make things happen. These people just do not appear but a leader will develop confident people by thinking more of his people than him or herself. People will respond to this approach by thinking more of themselves, gaining confidence and improving what they are doing.

Keep in mind that there are many biblical references to a servant such as being a shepherd watching the sheep. This is an important concept because the sheep are not there for the shepherd but the shepherd is there for the sheep. This means to keep things safe and moving Servant Leadership will use different approaches choosing the one which best supports the success of their people for a specific situation.

Take one action today to improve your leadership skills and practice it for a month.