

TESTS OF LEADERSHIP

Watching and Learning

If you're going to be a great leader, you're going to have to pass some big tests. It comes with the territory. You'll walk through loss and loneliness. You'll be questioned and criticized. You'll lead through adversity and obstacles. One of the distinguishing marks of effective leaders is emotional fortitude, which refers to our ability to handle pressure, criticism, and hardship, and keep on going without giving up. But even more vital than resilience is humility.

Lessons learned from the lives of Pastors Pete and Debbie over the years:

1. Never let natural events stop us from pursuing our mission

- a. "Absolute identity with one's cause is the first and greatest condition of one's leadership." Woodrow Wilson
- b. CONNECT PEOPLE WITH CHRIST, FAMILY, PURPOSE.
- c. *David did God's will during his lifetime... (Acts 13:36)*
- d. There is a mission and calling God has asked you to do.
- e. During times of crisis, doing nothing is never an option.

2. Always learn and get better.

- a. How you handle **this** crisis will give you the wisdom in how to handle the next crisis.
- b. *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8–9.*
- c. Get into the habit of asking yourself at the end of each day, "What have I learned today?" You can't stay "on course" to accomplish your purpose, if you are not aware of which direction you are heading. "Where are my current choices taking me?"

3. Prioritize what can make the most difference.

- a. "Most people over-estimate the risk and under-estimate their potential."
Paul Martinelli
- b. Three questions each of us should be asking during each day In our lives:
 - i. What have I learned today and how will I use this to get better each day?
 - ii. What actions will I take to improve my situation?
 - iii. How will I use this to help other people?

4. Problems are an opportunity for change.

- a. *Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?* Isaiah 43:18–19.
- b. When facing a problem, figure out what needs to change.

5. The keys to unlock tomorrow's problems are forged in the prayers of today.

- a. In prayer we turn our eyes away from ourselves and our situation to focus our attention on the Lord.
 - i. We acknowledge our dependence and call on Him for strength.
 - ii. Through prayer we not only strengthen our willing spirits; we also open our lives to the Holy Spirit of power.
- b. *He gives strength to those who are tired; to the ones who lack power, he gives renewed energy. Even youths get tired and weary; even strong young men clumsily stumble. **BUT** those who wait for the LORD's help find renewed strength; they rise up as if they had eagles' wings, they run without growing weary, they walk without getting tired.* Isaiah 40:29-31
- c. There is a difference between a prayer list and a prayer life. Unfortunately, many people only have a prayer list. With a prayer list...we set the agenda but with a prayer life God creates the agenda.
- d. When life is good many don't pray, because there is no urgency, or compelling need.