

LeaderSHIFT: Possibilities

Leadership Behavior: Leaders Make It Better

James 1:2–4 (ESV)

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James makes it clear:

- Problems (trials) are guaranteed in life
- Problems are to be embraced with joy
- Problems create opportunities for growth

Problem - a matter or situation regarded as unwelcome or harmful and needing to be dealt with and overcome.

Problems prevent us from being complacent. Every innovation, every business, every ministry is created in response to a problem. Leaders make it better!

No leader wants to hear “Houston, we have a problem.” Yet when you shift your perspective, a problem can become your best friend.

Problems are part of the process. The good news is that God has called you and equipped you to be the (CPS) Chief Problem Solver. **Leadership is problem solving!**

Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you don't care. Either is a failure of leadership. - Colin Powell

It doesn't take a leader to spot a problem, it takes a leader to solve one.

Good leaders find solutions to problems but great leaders see new possibilities in every problem.

“Anyone can point out a problem, but a leader does something about it.”—Craig Groeschel

LeaderSHIFT: See POSSIBILITIES not PROBLEMS

Most people obsess about the problems rather than the possibilities. So train your mind to remember: Problems are opportunities in disguise.

Possibilities - a thing that may be chosen or done out of several possible alternatives, unintended qualities of a promising nature

When you focus on problems you will see more problems. When you focus on possibilities you will find more opportunities. - Zig Ziglar

Remember we are in the business of problem solving!

You cannot control what happens to you, but you can control how you frame it. No one can stop you from reframing problems as potential opportunities.

James goes further, he invites us to seek God's wisdom in the midst of our problems.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Wisdom for Possibility Seekers

1) Don't find fault, find facts

Proverbs 18:13 (NLT) Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.

Don't seek to blame, excuse or justify the problem. Seek to understand it fully.

There are four helpful questions we use to diagnose a problem:

- What's right?
- What's wrong?
- What's confusing?
- What's missing?

You're going to have reasons and excuses as to why your problems have forced you into a corner. But remember, apathy finds an excuse while passion finds a way.

2) Don't jump to conclusions, get perspective

Proverbs 18:15 (ESV) An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

We see through a glass half dark. Asking a few good questions from others can bring clarity and open your eyes to new possibilities.

3) Don't see problems, seek possibilities

Mark 9:23 (ESV) And Jesus said to him, "If you can"! All things are possible for one who believes."

If you take your first two options away, what new possibilities present themselves?

Every crisis creates unexpected problems.

Every crisis also creates unprecedented opportunities.

Most people just see the problems, but the best leaders address the problems and seize the opportunities!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are exercises you can do to grow as a leader. Ask these to yourself and your team:

- 1. You might be facing a difficult choice, or you might see a problem with only two solutions. Take Option A and Option B off the table. Is there a third solution you haven't considered yet? What's your Option C?***
- 2. Anyone can point out a problem. A leader does something about it! If you want to make a bigger difference, solve bigger problems. Do you know of a problem you can solve for your leader before it ever becomes an issue to them? How could proactively solving it reflect positively on your own leadership?***