



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Leadership Challenges: Win Some Lose Some?

AUGUST 15, 2012

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Kansas just experienced statewide primary elections. Some of our colleagues faced significant challenges. Several lost their position, some moved on to the general election, and a few were given another term by their voters. What can we learn by looking at some of God's leaders through their wins and losses?

INTRODUCTION

Most of you would agree that attitude is everything when dealing with people. We have very little control over the affairs of life, especially when our immediate future is in the hands of others. Abraham Lincoln reminded us that we do have control of our reaction.¹ Solomon took us to the next step, teaching that rather than feel dependent upon others, we should put our trust in the Lord!

TRUST IN ALMIGHTY GOD

*Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*²

Lincoln lost more elections than he won, but was chosen President and recognized as one of our greatest leaders. Churchill lost his bid for re-election after saving his nation when all others around them were conquered. History identifies him as one of England's greatest statesmen. John the Baptist only served in ministry a couple years before being martyred. Yet Jesus said that John was greater than all the Old Testament prophets (Matthew 11:11). How do we handle winning?

WINNING WITH HUMILITY

*Proverbs 27:2a Don't praise yourself. Let someone else do it.*³

Your family, friends, and supporters will rejoice at your success. They feel that they are part of the victory. Your humility will help win the support of bystanders, even some of the opposition. A support base grows through this process. ***Pride will ruin people, but those who are humble will be honored*** (Proverbs 29:23). Winners must humble themselves; it's automatic for the one losing!

LOSING WITH DIGNITY

*1 Corinthians 1:26-29 Brothers and sisters, look at what you were when God called you. Not many of you were wise in the way the world judges wisdom. Not many of you had great influence. Not many of you came from important families. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and he chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose what the world thinks is unimportant and what the world looks down on and thinks is nothing in order to destroy what the world thinks is important. God did this so that no one can brag in his presence.*⁴

Dignify means to elevate, add to, or uplift a person's character.⁵ Going against the natural human tendencies builds character. Our modern term for this is "value-added." God consistently does this with those who He raises up to lead. ***And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men***" (1 Samuel 2:26). Are your setbacks, losses, and challenges serving to add to your character? Will the LORD be able to trust you with more favor? I recently talked with more than a dozen Kansas senators and representatives who have certainly passed these tests!

A PRAYER

Father God, please help me to be graceful in handling both success and setbacks. Bless me with Your favor, and trust me with the favor of these, Your people in the State of Kansas. I pray in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

¹ http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/229.Abraham_Lincoln?page=1

² The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. (Good News Publishers) 2001

³ The Holy Bible, New Century Version. (Thomas Nelson Inc.) 2005

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Noah Webster. American Dictionary of the English Language. (Webster) 1828.