

Leadership Development Community

“The Advantages of Adversity”

Genesis 40:9-15, “So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, ‘In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, 10 and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes. 11 Pharaoh’s cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh’s cup and put the cup in his hand.’ 12 ‘This is what it means,’ Joseph said to him. ‘The three branches are three days. 13 Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh’s cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. 14 But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. 15 For I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon.’”

Genesis 40:23, “The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.”

Genesis 41:1, “When two full years had passed...”

Joseph’s Adversity:

- 1) He was s_____ and s_____ into slavery by his brothers.
- 2) He was falsely a_____ by Potiphar’s wife.
- 3) He was thrown into p_____ in spite of doing nothing wrong.
- 4) He was f_____ by the Chief Butler.

Joseph’s Blessings:

Genesis 39:2, 3, 21 & 23 . . . “And the L_____ was w_____ Joseph...”

A Point to Ponder: Is it possible, the t_____ we run from most often is the t_____ that God has brought to us to train us?

The Advantages of Adversity:

- 1) Adversity Allows God To Be G_____ Around Others.**

Discussion: Name incidents and persons in the Bible that saw God because of an adverse situation.

Key Thought: God uses difficulties to demonstrate His **p**_____.

2) Adversity Always Provides Us With Greater **O_____.**

Key thought: To eliminate our problems is to limit our **p**_____!

3) Adversity Promotes Spiritual **M_____.**

- They'll make you better if you refuse to let them make you **b**_____!

Key Thought: The pressures of **I**_____ precede the power for **I**_____.

4) Adversity Proves Our **I_____.**

Key Thought: Circumstances do not make you what you are; they **r**_____ what you are!

Reputation is: What others **s**_____ us to be.

Character is: What we **r**_____ are.

Reputation is: What man **t**_____ we are.

Character is: What God **k**_____ we are.

Reputation is: What's on your **t**_____.

Character is: What the angels **t**_____ before the throne of God.

5) Adversity Prepares Our Hearts For **M_____.**

Genesis 40:5-8, "Each of the two men—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison—had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. 6 When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, 'Why are your faces so sad today?' 8 'We both had dreams,' they answered, 'but there is no one to interpret them.' Then Joseph said to them, 'Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams.'"

Key Thought: The blessings of God are not evident by the **I**_____ of adversity but by the **I**_____ received from it.

“Things A Leader Can’t Do”

In his book, Winning, Jack Welch outlines *What Leaders Do*. Here’s what he says:

1. Leaders relentlessly upgrade their team, using every encounter as an opportunity to evaluate, coach and build self-confidence.
2. Leaders make sure people not only see the vision, they live and breathe it.
3. Leaders get into everyone’s skin, exuding positive energy and optimism.
4. Leaders establish trust with candor, transparency and credit.
5. Leaders have the courage to make unpopular decisions and gut calls.
6. Leaders probe and push with a curiosity that borders on skepticism, making sure their questions are answered with action.
7. Leaders inspire risk taking and learning by setting the example.
8. Leaders celebrate.

That’s good stuff about what leaders do. Much of what’s being written about leadership these days centers on the *things leaders have to do, should do, ought to do and must do*. However, very little is written about what leaders can’t do. Specifically, what Christian leaders can’t do.

Things a Christian Leader Can’t Do

1. Leaders can’t be p_____ correct.

- A politically correct Christian leader is an o_____.
- **Isaiah 59:14-15**, “*Truth falls dead in the streets, and fairness is outlawed. Yes, truth is gone, and anyone who tries to live a godly life is soon attacked.*”

2. Leaders can’t o_____ with finding common ground.

- Leaders define the g_____ for us and it will never be common ground, rather it will be uncommon.
- Genuine leaders take us to places we would never get on our own and they do that by leading, not by asking everyone else, “*where would you like to go today?*”
- Authentic leadership is all about taking the road less traveled and doing, not what is e_____, but what is r_____.

3. Leaders can’t take a p_____ on problems.

- Genuine leaders diffuse problems instead of ducking them.

4. Leaders can’t avoid c_____.

5. Leaders can't pull p_____.

- Dr. E.V. Hill, *"I wouldn't trust a man who throws a rock then hides his hand."*
- Genuine leaders never hesitate to say what needs to be said or do what needs to be done.

6. Leaders can't hand off the hard decisions.

- President Truman had a plaque on his desk that said, *"The Buck Stops Here!"*

7. Leaders can't run when the going gets tough.

- But when the going gets tough, leaders don't leave, they LEAD! That's your job as a leader.

8. Leaders can't do it on their own.

- Leaders recognize their weaknesses and bring in people who are strong in those areas so the entire team operates from a position of strength.

9. Leaders can't become content with status-quo!

- Leaders are dreamers! Einstein said that *"Imagination is more important than knowledge."*
- Authentic leaders dare to dream impossible dreams. How often do you close your eyes and dream?

10. Leaders can't take a break from being a leader.

Our world is in dire need of some genuinely great leaders. But they won't come from the bunch who are signing up because of the benefits. No, quite the contrary; great leaders always come from those individuals who sign on because they're willing to bear the burdens. **THAT'S WHAT LEADERS DO.**