



APPLICATION GUIDE – MARCH 2018

Courageous Leadership – Part 1

BOTTOM LINE:

Expressions of courage are often what establish a person as a leader.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Courageous leaders challenge what *is* for the sake of what *could* and *should* be.
 - A leader is one who has the courage to initiate and set out in a new direction. They act on what they see.
 - A leader may not always be the first person to *see* an opportunity, but they are often the first one to *seize* an opportunity.
- Courageous leaders do difficult things:
 - Leaders take people to places they have never been before.
 - Leaders require those around them to abandon the known and embrace the unknown with no guarantee of success.
- Courageous leaders “walk in the dark.”
 - Leading can conjure up many of the same feelings of fear as taking a walk in the dark.
 - While darkness is the uncertainty that always accompanies change, the darkness also provides the leader with their greatest opportunity.
- Courageous leaders are not without fear:
 - Without fear there would be no need for courage. Courage is the ability and willingness to carry our fears and harness the energy that comes with fear into the unknown.
 - The individual who refuses to move until the fear and uncertainty are gone will never move, and, consequently, never led.
 - The outcome of unbridled fear is a missed opportunity.
- As a leader, you have no idea what hangs in the balance of your decision to act courageously.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION OR TEAM DISCUSSION:

1. What are some of the unexploited or unexplored opportunities that exist in your company or industry?
2. To what degree has fear kept you from exploiting or exploring these opportunities?
3. What is one step you could take or one change you could make today that would exemplify courageous leadership?