



APPLICATION GUIDE – APRIL 2018

Courageous Leadership – Part 2

BOTTOM LINE:

Expressions of courage are essential to leadership.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

There are three expressions of courage that can apply to every leader:

1. Courageous leadership knows that opportunity does not equal obligation.

- The ability to identify and focus on the few *necessary* things is a hallmark of great leadership.
- Learn to say no. Refusing to say no eventually robs leaders of their ultimate opportunity: the opportunity to play to their strengths.
- Leaders and organizations that entangle themselves in an array of unrelated “opportunities” dilute their effectiveness in every area.

2. Courageous leadership is the courage to face current reality.

- To courageously face current reality, leaders must be relentless in their quest to discover the truth about what is happening around them.
- Facing current reality requires leaders to:
 - Not pretend.
 - Not turn a blind eye.
 - Not exaggerate.
 - Not shoot the bearer of bad news.
 - Not hide behind the numbers.
 - Not ignore constructive criticism.
 - Not isolate themselves.

3. Courageous leadership is the courage to dream.

- Dreaming requires courage.
- Leaders must allow their minds to wander outside the boundaries of *what is* and begin to create a mental picture of *what could be*.
- When leaders are no longer willing to dream, it’s only a short time until followers will be unwilling to follow.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION OR TEAM DISCUSSION:

1. What areas of your leadership could be improved by being more strategic in the opportunities to which you say yes and the ones to which you say no.
2. What organizational areas does an honest and brutal fact-finding mission need to take place in so you can discover and face current reality?
3. As a leader, what are you currently dreaming about?

RESOURCES MENTIONED:

Good to Great by Jim Collins

The Fifth Discipline by Peter Senge

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey