



Executive Recruitment  
Outplacement  
Human Resource Consulting  
Assessments  
Talent Management

### Teachable Moments

In our quest to find the “right” job, the “perfect” life, or be the all-around leader, we buy books, attend seminars, listen to lectures and spend money on gimmicks only to find that the answers are already within us. It’s comparable to the story of *The Wizard of Oz*. The Tin Man, Lion, Scarecrow and Dorothy already had what they needed; they just had to believe in themselves and use the talents they were given to realize it.

It’s not people’s intent to be less than they can be, is it? Or do people view their choices with a narrow mind, never realizing the limitless opportunities they have to succeed. There is a lot of truth in the Buddhist proverb, “When the student is ready, the teacher will appear.”

We have teachable moments in our lives every day if we are open to learning. Leaders understand that the moment they become unteachable, they lose their edge. Teachable moments come in many forms and can happen at any time. Leaders must continually find opportunities to learn, whether through a quote, a book, a conversation, an event, or an image that makes an impact. If you look back on the times you learned the most, you may find it was something that you had been told or warned against several times, yet it wasn’t until you experienced it that you understood or found its meaning. It’s at those moments that the student was ready to learn.

When you are open to learning, you start to look at your career and personal life through a different lens. It is through this lens that you will find true happiness and success as you have defined it. There is no right or wrong path to success, but here are a few principles to consider:

- Know your career and personal values and formulate a vision for your future. Discover your employees’ values as well so you can motivate them to achieve the company’s vision.
- Create a plan that is aligned with your values and work it. You will be amazed at how exciting it is to move closer to your vision. This excitement is passed along to your employees as well.
- Take responsibility for past decisions and actions. A quote by Will Rodgers may help to remember this guideline, “Don’t let yesterday use up too much of today.”
- Constantly evaluate and modify the plan as life or work events happen. Ask yourself, “What can/did I learn from this?” Also, solicit your employees’ opinions - it is a great way to create buy-in.
- Act and move forward despite facing obstacles and opposition. Failure only comes from not trying. Leaders are people of action. Delegate. It will encourage ownership and strengthen employees’ skills.
- Choose your attitude. Leaders focus on the positive and think of solutions. They are in command of their own thinking. Remember, happiness is a choice. Choose to find some every day.
- Forgive yourself and others through compassion. Why carry the extra baggage? Besides, if we were perfect, wouldn’t it be a boring world?
- Stay focused on what you want. Leaders know it’s their responsibility to seize the moment and change the course of events.

So wherever you are on the ladder of success and whatever method you use to inspire or motivate yourself and others, find comfort and peace in the fact that at this moment, you are in the right place, doing the right thing. And remember, “When the student is ready, the teacher will appear.”