



LeaderSHIFT: Inspiration

Change Your Thinking, Change Your Leading

Leadership Behavior: Leaders Lead Themselves, Leaders Lead Leaders

***Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV***

I believe every one of us, especially as leaders, have the ability to inspire others towards a better future!

On August 28, 1963, 250,000 people descended on the Mall in Washington, D.C. for the “March On Washington For Jobs And Freedom.” The speakers included civil rights leaders like John Lewis, Mahalia Jackson and Martin Luther King Jr.

As Dr. King stood to deliver his prepared remarks, Mahalia Jackson called out, “tell them about the dream Martin.” Dr. King set aside his notes and spoke from his heart. His words were more than just a speech. They were words of inspiration that changed history.

He said, “I have a dream...”

Those on the mall heard his dream and that dream touched them deep inside. His dream was their dream. Those who believed in that dream took that dream and made it their cause. They told people what they believed and those people told others what they believed. It was what they believed. It was what they dreamed.

That day 250,000 came at the invitation of Dr. King, but they didn’t come for Dr. King. They came for themselves. They came because they all felt the same desire for a better future. They may not have had the words to articulate it. Most disagreed on how to create that future. That day, Dr. King gave voice to their inner cry. He spoke not to their heads, but their hearts. He inspired them, not with a plan, but with a dream.

That’s what great leaders do. They inspire others towards a better future.

Our Goal is Not Motivation

We often think of leadership as motivating people to go where they need to go and to accomplish what needs to be done.

Motivation - (*root “motive”*) This is an external force moving someone forward.

- Common motivators are paychecks, rewards, awards, consequences, discipline.

- “If you do this, I’ll do that for you.” It is an external force designed to create action.
- The problem with motivational leadership is that it is too reliant on the leader to keep the pressure coming.
- It’s exhausting!
- **The moment the motivator is no longer relevant, the motivated action will no longer be reliable.**

Our Goal is Inspiration

Most leaders think the terms “motivate” and “inspire” are interchangeable. While both are important, there is a key difference between these two words.

Inspiration - (*root “in spirit”*) drive comes from within

- Inspiration speaks of our passions, hopes, dreams, desires
- Inspiration connects with our WHY
- Inspiration is our internal drive

LeaderSHIFT... Great Leaders Think Inspiration not Motivation

Our goal as leaders should not be to motivate leaders or find self-motivated leaders. Our goal is to inspire self-motivated leaders toward a world changing mission.

1. START WITH WHAT INSPIRES YOU

If all your motivators were removed, would you still do what you are doing? Why? What is that internal drive that causes you to get up in the morning and keep moving?

Our mission is to live life in full and see others discover life in all its fullness. We are driven to keep making things better, to lead leaders, to lead ourselves, to be all in, to be better together not because we are paid to do it; but because we believe that together we can see our families and our community experience the life Jesus gave His life for.

This is our inspiration:

Christ is our message! We preach to awaken hearts and bring every person into the full understanding of truth. It has become my inspiration and passion in ministry to labor with a tireless intensity, with his power flowing through me, to present to every believer the revelation of being his perfect one in Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:28–29, TPT

(Let me encourage you to listen or register to “How Great Leaders Inspire Action”

https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action?language=en

2. FIND YOUR INSPIRATION STRENGTHS

Inspirational leadership comes in many different forms.

Bain & Company surveyed 2000 employees and found that there were 33 attributes that employees found inspirational in their leaders. The good news was that it wasn’t necessary for a leader to embody all 33 but to clearly demonstrate a few.

33 CHARACTERISTICS OF SUPER INSPIRING LEADERS



Take a moment to identify some of your strengths and then think about how you can use those strengths to inspire others with that which also inspires you.

Make It Practical

Here are exercises you can do to grow as a leader—ask yourself and your team these questions:

1. We discussed a study that listed 33 attributes that regularly inspire others to action. How can you use those strengths to inspire others?
2. Take a look back on everything we've discussed during these LeaderSHIFT devotionals. Pay close attention to what you've written down personally. Take a few minutes to put together a plan to keep growing, and make sure to answer these two questions:
 - What steps will I take to commit to change my thinking?
 - With my new mindset, how will I take action?