



# Leadership

## Some interesting thoughts and words of wisdom about leadership.

"The leader's job is to set the direction - and get out of the way."

- David Kirk. Captain of the All Blacks and adviser to the New Zealand Prime Minister.

" 'Level 5 leaders' channel their ego needs away from themselves and into the larger goal of building a great company. It's not that Level 5 leaders have no ego or self-interest. Indeed, they are incredibly ambitious – but their ambition is first and foremost for the institution, not themselves."

- Jim Collins. Good to Great. 2001.

"Management works in the system; leadership works on the system."

- Stephen R Covey

"If you tell people where to go, but not how to get there, you will be amazed by the results."

- General George Patten

"A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves."

- Lao Tzu

"The best leaders don't know just one style of leadership – they are skilled at several, and have the flexibility to switch between styles as the circumstances dictate."

- Daniel Goleman.

"If you want to build a ship, then don't drum up men to gather wood, give orders and divide the work. Rather, teach them to yearn for the far and endless sea."

- Antoine de Saint Exupery.

"Leadership is not magnetic personality – that can just as well be a glib tongue. It is not 'making friends and influencing people' -- that is flattery. Leadership is lifting a person's vision to high sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations."

- Peter F. Drucker

"Outstanding leaders go out of the way to boost the self-esteem of their personnel. If people believe in themselves, it's amazing what they can accomplish."

- Sam Walton. Wal-mart Stores founder.

"The art of leadership is saying no, not yes. It is very easy to say yes."

- Tony Blair. Ex British Prime Minister

"The most dangerous leadership myth is that leaders are born -- that there is a genetic factor to leadership. This myth asserts that people simply either have certain charismatic qualities or not. That's nonsense; in fact, the opposite is true. Leaders are made rather than born."

- Warren G. Bennis

"A successful leader is someone who can understand people's motivations and enlist employee participation in a way that marries needs and interests to the group's purpose."

- W C H Prentice

"Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him and to let him know that you trust him."

- Booker T Washington

"I always remember the axiom: a leader is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realising that all along they are being directed from behind."

- Nelson Mandela