

A Key for Leaders

In the 1800s, two powerful men vied for leadership of Great Britain's government: William Gladstone and Benjamin Disraeli.

They were intense rivals. Disraeli once said of his opponent, "The difference between a misfortune and a calamity [is this]: If Gladstone fell into the Thames [River], it would be a misfortune. But if someone dragged him out again, it would be a calamity."

Both men proved to be successful leaders, but Disraeli was seen as a man of more charisma, and that edge was due to something other than his razor-sharp wit. The key to Disraeli's personality advantage was best expressed by a woman who dined with the two statesmen on consecutive evenings.

When asked about her impressions of them, she said, "When I left the dining room after sitting next to Mister Gladstone, I thought he was the cleverest man in England. But after sitting next to Mister Disraeli, I thought I was the cleverest woman in England."

The key to being an inspiring leader is not trying to prove how important and smart you are. As Disraeli knew, the true secret lies in one's ability to make others feel important and valued. That principle certainly is true in the mission of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home – as we interact with our residents and our associates.

Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10).

--Beecher Hunter