

Digging a Trench

Good leadership, of course, is vital to the success of any organization. What makes a good leader? People have their own ideas. Here is what one great leader, General George S. Patton Jr., had to say about it in *General Patton's Principles for Life and Leadership*:

Picking the right leader is the most important task of any commander. I line up the candidates and say, "Men, I want a trench dug behind warehouse ten. Make this trench eight feet long, three feet wide and six inches deep."

While the candidates are checking their tools out at the warehouse, I watch them from a distance. They puzzle over why I want such a shallow trench. They argue over whether six inches is deep enough for a gun emplacement. Some complain that such a trench should be dug with power equipment. Others gripe that it is too hot or too cold to dig. If the men are above the rank of lieutenant, there will be complaints that they should not be doing such lowly labor. Finally, one man will order, "What difference does it make what he wants to do with this trench! Let's get it dug and get out of here."

That man will get the promotion. Pick the man who can get the job done.

God, too, is looking for people to whom He can give authority and responsibility. Like Patton, He gives people jobs and watches to see how they respond. Most of all, God is looking for obedience and faithfulness.

--Beecher Hunter