

LOOK WITHIN YOU

The Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross and president of the University of Notre Dame for 35 years, had this description of leadership:

“The very essence of leadership is that you have a vision. It’s got to be a vision you can articulate clearly and forcefully on every occasion. You can’t blow an uncertain trumpet.”

An “uncertain trumpet” is usually the result of an individual who either lacks a vision or is trying to lead with someone else’s dream.

John C. Maxwell, author and internationally recognized expert on leadership development, said there is a vast difference between a person with a vision and a visionary person. Maxwell defined it this way:

- A person with a vision talks little but does much.
- A visionary person does little but talks much.
- A person with a vision finds strength from inner convictions.
- A visionary person finds strength from outward conditions.
- A person with vision continues when problems arise.
- A visionary person quits when the road becomes difficult.

Maxwell gave these examples of people with a vision:

Demosthenes, the greatest orator of the ancient world, stuttered! Julius Caesar was an epileptic. Napoleon was of humble parentage and far from being a born genius. Beethoven was deaf, as was Thomas Edison. Charles Dickens was lame, and so was Handel. Homer was blind; Plato was a hunchback. Sir Walter Scott was paralyzed.

“What gave these great individuals the stamina to overcome severe setbacks and become successful?” Maxwell asked.

“Each person had an inner dream that lit a fire that could not be extinguished. Great visions begin as an ‘inside job.’”

Napoleon Hill, American author and one of the earliest producers of the modern genre of personal success literature, said “Cherish your visions and dreams as they are the children of your soul: the blueprints of your ultimate achievements.”

Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18 KJV)

– Beecher Hunter