

Maintain Your Focus

The story is told of a man who was blind from the time he was a small child. As an adult, he made a living by selling fruit on the side of the road.

Every morning, he would travel to the market very early to pick by hand the best fruit for his stand that the farmers had to offer.

Throughout the day, many people traveling down the road would stop and purchase fruit from him. They always remarked at how he had the juiciest and ripest fruit at his stand. He would thank them and join in conversation with them. Most days, he completely sold out by early afternoon. He took great pride in his work.

One day, a group of doctors traveling down the road stopped and bought fruit. During their conversation, one doctor told the man about a surgery that could reverse his blindness.

Months later, the man had the surgery. On the day they were to remove the bandages from his eyes, the doctors asked the man what was the first thing he wanted to see. The man told them he wanted to see his fruit stand.



They took the man to the fruit stand, and when they removed the bandages, the first thing he noticed was that his was not the only fruit stand on the road. There were several others, all much larger than his, and offering more.

Once the man returned to work, he became preoccupied with what everyone else was doing, and how it was different or better than his own practices. He began to pay less attention to his own business and soon his customers began to shop at the other fruit stands.

After a while, he no longer found joy in his work. He closed the fruit stand and struggled to find meaningful work because he always compared himself to those around him.

Had he been able to maintain his focus on his own business, he would have realized that nothing anyone else does should matter as long as you stay true to yourself and your mission, and engage in worthwhile endeavors that bring fulfillment.

Measuring yourself short against another is the sure road to failure.

– Beecher Hunter