

Not Easily Derailed

A manager charged with pulling a railroad yard back into the black first looked at the books to gain a financial overview. He then went to the yard to test the validity of those numbers.



He was the one, however, who was tested.

The crew had to change a brake shoe on one of the cars. A wily veteran – anxious for an easy day – pointed out to the manager that since there were only three hours until quitting time and the brake job would take four, the smart thing to do was to quit for the day and start again tomorrow.

Wise to the ways of crews, the manager said that they could at least get the job started. Then, surprise, surprise! The change took only two hours.

A couple of observations about this story:

1. It is amazing what a little motivation can accomplish.
2. By calling the bluff, the manager established his knowledge of the job – and his personal authority as a leader who couldn't easily be sent down the wrong track.

Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance (Proverbs 1:5).

– Beecher Hunter