

The Start for Ray Charles

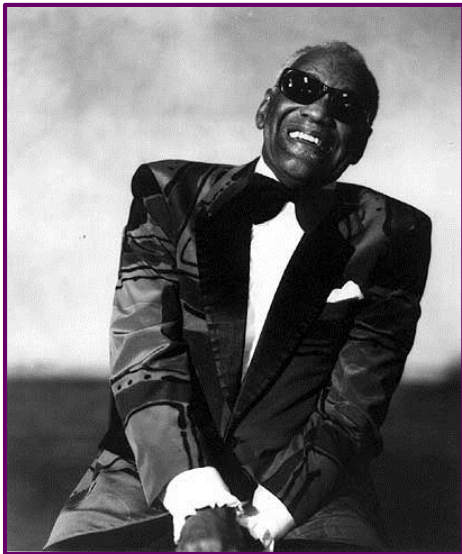
John C. Maxwell, author and internationally recognized expert on leadership development, writes in his book *The Maxwell Daily Reader* about a life-changing incident in the life of entertainer Ray Charles (1930 – 2004).

In 1946, Charles heard that Lucky Millinder – a rhythm-and-blues performer and swing band leader – was coming to town. Charles managed to arrange an audition, and that excited him. If he could get on with Millinder, he would be in the big time.

When his opportunity came, the young musician played the piano and sang his heart out. Being blind, Charles couldn't see Millinder's reaction to his performance, so when he finished, Charles waited patiently for his response.

Finally, he heard the band leader say, "Ain't good enough, kid."

Charles went back to his room and cried.



"That was the best thing that ever happened to me," Charles later recalled. "After I got over feeling sorry for myself, I went back and started practicing so nobody would ever say that to me again."

No one else did. As the saying goes, "You can claim to be surprised once; after that, you're unprepared."

"Charles' preparation paid him dividends for more than half a century, and he played with some of the most talented musicians in the world," Maxwell noted.

What about us? Preparation may not guarantee a win, but it sure puts you in position for one.

As important as music is in our society, those of us who work in health care are involved in a far greater mission – the well-being of those entrusted to us.

Life Care has assembled an abundance of talent. To that, let's be certain we add preparation for each and every patient we have the opportunity to serve.

Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool lays open his folly (Proverbs 13:16 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter