



LISTENING TO

LIFE'S WHISPERS



“Look for opportunities; look for growth; look for impact; look for mission. Evaluate what you can do, not the title that they are going to give you.”

Sheryl Sandberg

We live a life of “What’s next?” Measured by milestones; first steps, first day of school, first date, graduation from high school and college, first “real” job, marriage, promotions, retirement; we are in search of more.

As we approach graduation season, it is a perfect time of year to reflect on our lessons learned along the way and to create our own “What’s next?” regardless of the stage of life we are embracing.

Listen to Life’s Whispers

In her commencement speech at Stanford University, Oprah Winfrey inspired the graduates to “Pay attention to life’s whisper.” As the whisper becomes a scream, Oprah encouraged them

“What you get by reaching your destination is not nearly as important as what you will become by reaching your destination.”

to contemplate on “Why is this happening? What is it here to teach me?” Reflecting on this sage advice, it is evident that we have the opportunity to grow from our experiences versus wasting time questioning what we cannot change.

Evolving through our life, we have the choice to continue to live in the past or focus on today. During our youth, our Aunt Frances would remind us that the rearview mirror is smaller than the front windshield. We were taught to keep our eyes on the road ahead, allowing a quick look back at yesterday.

A Mindset of Contribution

What you choose to believe becomes your reality. You will appreciate your job to a higher degree when you enter your office with a culture of service in your heart and mind. Consider asking yourself – “What can I do today to contribute to our company, assist our clients, and champion my colleagues?” A service mindset, coupled with a focus on the tasks at hand, will assist you in standing out as an integral employee.

When people see your positive attitude and the spring in your step, they want some of that!

Eyes Wide Open – Look for the Opportunities

Whatever your position or tenure in the workplace, be on the lookout for opportunities for both you and your company. You create your own future – don’t wait for someone else to guide

you. Read articles on your trade, attend conferences, listen to webinars and become an expert in your fields of interest.

Time to Say Goodbye?

When you are unhappy with your job, bored or ready to move on to a new challenge and career opportunity, do so with grace.

Offer plenty of notice - a minimum of two to four weeks. Your company may ask you to pack your desk immediately or they may appreciate your presence until your replacement is hired and trained. Organize your files and emails so that your boss, colleagues and the new hire have the ability to decipher them long after you are gone.

Your words illustrate your character- always leave with your reputation intact. Thank your former employer for the opportunity to work for the company. Be appreciative for your growth and opportunities while working there.

Zig Ziglar

Life’s Chapters

Reflect upon what is important to you in this chapter of your life. There will be a time that you may want to make “a lot” of money, enabling you to own a home, car, vacations and other items that will make you happy. Yet research has consistently proven that “things” will not make us happy. Through the stages of your life, importance will change for you. What does not change is the joy derived from our relationships - our family, faith, friends and community.

So as we welcome new employees to the workplace this graduation season, let’s continue to amplify our own professional and personal growth, embracing “What’s next?” and serving as a mentor and mentee to our future leaders. Carpe Diem!

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