

Time for Leaders to Apply Servant Leadership Principles in Action to End the “Government Shutdown”

by J. E. Kimbrough Gandy

January 11, 2019

Empathy begins by thinking of the multitude of families who are facing financial crisis and massive financial hardships. Imagine if you had to experience the same dilemma. Consider your inability to feed your family or buy life saving medications. Have a deep concern about human beings not being able to pay for their mortgages/rent, utilities, credit cards, car notes, and groceries.

Awareness on how this “Government Shutdown” directly and indirectly impacts our infrastructures, businesses, operations, and most importantly lives jeopardizing safety and security. Be proactive in the issues concerning our shutdown as it relates to our counterterrorism. Be preventive and have heightened awareness of the potential for homeland security incidents and acts.

Remember the harmful impact on humanity when food is not regularly inspected, and our airport security checkpoints and mandates are ineffective and deficient. The awareness of lives must become priority for the health and welfare of others are impeded. Consider the immediate and long term economical impact to our United States. Have an awareness on adapting and committing inclusion, cultural awareness and cultural diversity. Humanity is every single human being on this planet. A secured border is a necessity to protect any country, but the methods utilized to obtain a secured border requires innovation and not millions or billions of dollars.

As leaders cultural awareness is an extraordinary practice to live by, and it will assist in removing the layers of generalizations and biases. Furthermore, as leaders we must understand and develop as humans toward a cohesive experience with others. Leaders must consider history, but it must be an accurate history in conjunction with being mindful of the future. Inclusion of race, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, and political affiliation of everyone is necessary for humankind to sustain. Every human being is equal and every human being must be treated respectfully in all decisions and in all actions.

Persuasiveness the ability to respectfully communicate and negotiate verbally and non-verbally in a cohesive & mature manner. Allow and appreciate everyone at the negotiation table and remove the “I” and apply the “We”. Those who believe they are leaders and they threaten, ridicule, force, dismiss, perjure, or embarrass others have already failed as leaders.

For true, influential and successful leadership is the opposite. These actions increase the effectiveness during the negotiation process to end the Government Shutdown of 2019. Moreover, others will become appreciative and want to consider and decide through meaningful

displays of selflessness.

Selflessness removes your own agendas and apply solutions that meets the needs of others. Inspire to help the workers, families, businesses and infrastructures who are suffering due to this shutdown. Have accountability for your actions and become flexible and responsive to the needs of others.

Every decision is not suppose to be about your own financial or political gains. Extraordinary and dynamic leaders think about how their decisions will improve others, organizations, partnerships, and humanity.

The foundation of leadership creates an environment that every single person in meetings and negotiations are necessary in creating favorable and long term strategies. The thought, action, concept, and practice of selflessness must become the ultimate goal as a leader from this day forward.

Honesty spreads respectability and reliability when truth is an individual's motto, practice, and belief! Remember, lies and half truths will destroy the ability to maintain trust and achieve goals. Transform a dysfunctional and destructive climate into a functional climate simply by having the decency to be honest.

Encourage others by becoming a leader that strives to speak and act with honesty, and they correct any mishaps and mistakes. Respectability and trust occurs with leaders who verify information and data with multiple reliable sources before communicating it. Display your honesty in public and in private and trust will increase. Building trust will increase comradeship and reflect credibility as a leader to resolve issues & crisis. This is a crisis that requires leaders of courage & ethics!

Collaboration is truly adapting and functioning in a bipartisan manner. True leadership instills influence and not fear or threats. Remove the explosive power trip and replace it with calmness and deep thought to create a climate of collaboration. Successful leadership is empowering individuals, teams, and others by not boasting your own power and glory but celebrating others!



About the Author:

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She holds an M.S. in Leadership and a B.S. in Justice Studies from Grand Canyon University, and an A.A. in Homeland Security from Everest University (formerly FMU). She is working on multiple art and literary projects and collaborations to improve leadership and humanity. Her pursuit toward obtaining a doctorate is in the near future.