



What does your future as a leader look like?

Do you know?

Is it clear?

Does it matter?

Can you be comfortable with the discomfort of not really knowing?

Are you open to all the changes and detours that will come your way?

Because they will most certainly come your way.

Whatever happens, what is most important to you?

What do you want to look back on and feel proud of?

I encourage you to ask yourself these questions throughout your leadership journey.

It's important to focus on where you're trying to go, and make sure you know what you need to get there. In addition to many other things you will need it is essential that you have support around you both personally and professionally.

Professionally, make sure you have at least one mentor if not more throughout your time as a leader. Mentors are there to support you, guide you, teach you, and show you how to get to where you want to go.

In addition to mentors, you may benefit from working with coaches, counselors, supervisors receiving all kinds of training and other ways to grow into a thriving leader.

Personally make sure you surround yourself with positive people who want the best for you. Yes as a leader and also as a person.

Give yourself permission to change your mind.

Sometimes we're so focused and we talk so much about something we think we want, and even when we realize we don't really want it, it's become so much a part of our identity that we just hold on to it.

Give yourself permission to change your mind, even on the things you never guessed you would want to change your mind on.

Encourage and congratulate yourself when you make mistakes, because it shows that you're trying something new and you're on the path to learning and growth.

You cannot get there without the mistakes.



Be brave enough and forgiving enough to make those mistakes, learn, and keep on going.

Try new things.

You might not even know yet what really energizes you or what you're really going to enjoy because you haven't even experienced it so be open to new things.

Above all else give yourself permission to be happy. You are taking on a noble cause to be a leader and support other people. It won't always be enjoyable. You're going to have hard moments and hard days. You're not expected to be happy every moment of every day, but overall your job satisfaction and your life satisfaction is what is important.

Give yourself permission to enjoy what you're doing. To enjoy who you are as a person and to enjoy your life. Be happy. Give yourself permission to be happy. Not if not when but now and always.

Remember to give yourself a break literally and figuratively.

Take a break from the computer, from your email, from your phone, actually take your time off, and take a vacation.

And give yourself a break meaning go easy on yourself. Stop being your own worst critic. Be proud of who you are. Push yourself to be better and to do good work. Give yourself a break and go easy on yourself so that you can appreciate and be proud of who you are no matter what.

Remember that you only have so much time, so use that time wisely and effectively to make the difference in the impact you want to have but also remember that there's a lot of life outside of work and there's only so much time to live it.

Get the support you need, and learn to be proud of who you are not just what you do.

I am so proud of you.

For investing in yourself, for believing in yourself, for trusting yourself to go after what it is that you want.

Please make sure you are proud of yourself, too.

So the most important question for you is, how will you design your future as a leader?

And how will you enjoy it?