



Why do you want to be a leader?

I know that it comes with some perks, a nice title, and maybe a little more money.

But in many cases those perks don't really balance out the challenges that come with being in a leadership position.

To really make it worthwhile, you need to be invested in doing it and doing it well.

So are you invested in being a leader and being a thriving one?

One thing that's really important to remember as you go through this assessment throughout this lesson, but throughout your journey as a leader is that leaders are not better or superior to not leaders.

The way we have it set up in most workplaces is that it is a higher position and a position that gets paid more and gets more respect.

But in the purest sense being a leader is just like any other position.

Some people really want to do it. Some people are really good at it. But other people don't have interest in it. And they're not very good at it.

If you decide throughout your assessment that you don't really want to be in a leadership position or you want your leadership position to look very differently, it doesn't mean anything except you don't want to be a leader.

It doesn't make you less than.

It doesn't make you lazy.

It doesn't make you unambitious.

It means of all the positions in the world, it's just not one that speaks to you. Don't let it mean any more than that.

The other thing to keep in mind is there's lots of ways to be a leader.

Many times when it comes to work, a leadership position entails supervising other people.

Some people are really motivated by that. Some people are sort of indifferent to it and some people really don't like it.

What about you?

Are you energized by supervising other people or does it really drain you?



Do you love what you do, but wish you didn't have to supervise a team while you were doing it?

Again, this is all okay.

It's important for your own growth and your own joy and happiness at work and in life to discover what it is that you really want to do.

If you decide that supervising other people is not it then that's an important decision for you to make for yourself.

There are other ways to be a leader without supervising people.

You can be a thought leader.

A mentor.

A staff who is doing great work that makes you feel satisfied and energized but does not entail being in a formal leadership position supervising others.

Be creative with what it is you want to do with your leadership if anything at all.

If you come to a decision at this point in time that you don't want to be in a leadership position or somewhere down the road that is perfectly okay. Don't put shoulds on yourself that you have absolutely no interest in. It's going to set you up to be burnt out and unsatisfied in what you're doing.

Be really honest with yourself about what you're looking for in your own leadership and how you want your leadership to look for you.

If you do choose to be a leader, particularly a leader of other people, commit to being a great one. Yes, it's challenging and it's hard, but to be great, the biggest components that you are going to need is the desire to be great, the mindset of a great leader, and the investment to do it well. I won't forget my skills, even though I always put them last.

You need to develop your leadership skills, but so much of being an effective leader is really wanting to do it well and investing in yourself to do it well. If you make the decision to be a leader, particularly leading other people, then choose to be a great one.

The three main things you'll need to do in whatever position you're in as a leader is:

- 1) put your people first
- 2) have a vision
- 3) invest in yourself, your people, and that vision



Throughout your journey professionally and personally, give yourself the opportunity to change your mind to reflect and realize that sometimes things change. Circumstances change. You want to try something new. You might want to take a step back and you might come full circle or not.

Give yourself that freedom to keep experimenting and exploring and find out what it is that really motivates you and really drives you to make a difference.

So the most important question for you is, why do you want to be a leader?