

1Minute with 1Vision

What Do Heroes and Leaders Have in Common?

This question has been on my mind since attending a local banquet honoring individuals for their heroic actions. There may be an event in your local community, but two local foundations exceptionally coordinate ours. (Shout out to the Covenant and the Sartori Health Care Foundations.)

At first blush, the 12 “winners” might not seem to have much in common. There were differences in age, race and gender. While I can categorize their actions as bravery, responsiveness, fearlessness, and valor, there is still one word I keep coming back to that joins them all.

Keep reading for the reveal and how it relates to leadership.

Two men rush into a burning building to rescue five children. Three boys pick up a gutter spout and bb gun to beat back a dog attacking an elderly woman. A mother who lost her son in Afghanistan spends her “free time” helping military families, wounded soldiers and veterans. A woman, arriving at a wedding reception, hears shrieks of help from the hotel pool and a little girl is alive today.

Each act of heroism (although none would use the word “hero”) began with the attitude that ***another person is more valuable than my time, my money and even my own life.*** Selflessness is truly the unifying attribute for these heroes.

While each of us may willingly step into a dangerous place for our spouse, our kids or loved ones – how many would do so for a stranger? This is one of Jesus’ central themes in the New Testament; ***“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*** Now, imagine doing so for people who disagree with your worldview or who might have done you harm. Jesus went on to instruct us to “...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...”

Businesses, nonprofits, families and political parties would thrive if their leaders inject a bigger dose of selflessness. I may never be called upon to step up during a moment of crisis, but my life will be richer the more I think of others first.

Sincerely,



Blake Conover
President