

We The People

Program 79

Leadership 2



Recently I came across an article which records the remarkable discovery of a gene associated with leadership. Called the rs4950 gene it was identified after testing those who show leadership qualities across a wide range of fields. Now I am sure that leadership is more than some DNA predisposition and good leadership is vital to society on all physical, mental and spiritual levels. Regardless of the rs4950 leadership gene there will always be those who step forward to lead well and for others to follow. The writer Stephen Covey articulates the difference between a manager and a leader with an analogy of a team clearing a track through rugged tropical forest. Those managing the project are pleased with progress and are ahead of schedule. However the leader is the one who climbs the nearest tree, surveys the situation and calls out.....wrong jungle. So it is without insightful leadership we can spend a lot of time addressing the wrong issues no matter how sincere and purposeful we are.

History produces great leaders who we look on and marvel at their courage and resilience. This passing parade includes Lincoln, Churchill, Jesus of Nazareth, Kennedy, Gandhi, Thatcher, Teresa, Columbus, Pericles, Mandela, Sharon, Einstein, Martin Luther King and Aung San Suu Kyi. Isaac Newton summed it up this way.....*"If I have seen further than others, it is because I was standing on the shoulders of giants"*. Ralph Nader added.....*"I start with the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers"*.

When I look at the Australian political landscape I despair that we do not have outstanding leaders with the nation's future singularly in their sights. Rather our representatives in high office seem predisposed with their own reflection and have turned government into a discounted Circus Soleil. Federal, State and Local government politicians are often unimpressive clowns and lack the intellectual horse power, wisdom and empathy needed to lead effectively. They lack vision and have contempt for the ordinary person which is self evident in their actions. Their lies and deceit, their political assassinations, the corruption, their foolish power games are at the expense of our nation and our children's children. The waste of public money is spectacular, morally corrupt and financially disparaging. Somewhere in the corridors of power it seems we the people have been conned and forgotten and we need to rise up peacefully and tell these buffoons to do their job or get out. Listeners, do this by email, by letter, by carrier pigeon, do it in person or at the ballot box but please do your part to rid us all of those pseudo leaders who fail us.

Australia is groaning under the weight of poor decisions and governments making short term rulings for their own political welfare to stay in office at any cost. This can only do harm and the colossal public debt we have at every level of government is testimony to stupidity and lack of leadership at the highest levels. You can't live forever on a credit card and endlessly purchase on the never-never and we can't keep packing more people in to a dry continent. We have to change the paradigm we've let creep in and we must do it soon. We have to live nationally and locally within our means else the financial grim reaper comes knocking.

To preserve our way of life we have to be vigilant, we have to be involved and we have to speak up no matter how lowly our voice. We have to will up great leaders and we must demand honesty and transparency from those elected. A dictator is not a leader and invariably they take from the people to feather their own nest. *"The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humour, but without folly"* said Jim Rohn. Unless we the people act the coming decades in this great country will be counted as the worst in our history so let's not settle for mediocrity and poor leadership any longer. Demand honesty, integrity and a true vision for Australia as well as our home here on the Gold Coast to ensure our quality of life and that freedom of speech is not lost.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley