

Uncertainty is a permanent part of the leadership landscape

Contrary to what we may think, uncertainty actually increases with increased leadership responsibility. Whether we are a CEO, middle manager, mother, coach, husband, or wife, the more responsibility that we assume in those roles, the more uncertainty we will be expected to manage. The cost of success in those roles is greater uncertainty, not less.

There will be very few occasions when we are absolutely certain about anything. We will be called upon to make decisions with limited information. In these times, our goal is not to eliminate uncertainty. Rather, we must develop the art of being clear in the face of uncertainty.

The art of clarity involves giving explicit and precise direction in spite of limited information and unpredictable outcomes – we need both confidence and humility. Confidence to move boldly in the direction we have chosen. Humility to acknowledge that it won't be perfect.

Tom Brady, NFL quarterback, says it this way:

You have to want to live in the world the job creates.

Yes, we have to want to be the mother, father, coach, CEO, or quarterback, knowing full well that life in those worlds will be unpredictable at best.

This week, let's embrace the uncertainty in our worlds with confidence and humility. Let's be a leader worth following!

Have a great week!

