

## Marching Off The Map

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Intro: The risk-free life is a victory-free life. It means life-long surrender to the mediocre...and that is the worst of all defeats.

Three basic personality types doomed to a life of failure:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ are people who focus on the past and who concern themselves with how things "should have been."
2. \_\_\_\_\_ are people who are so focused on their present condition that they stay right where they are.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ are people who plan for the future but never turn their plans into action.

(Doing What You Love, Loving What You Do - by Dr. Robert Anthony, The Berkley Publishing Group)

**QUESTION: Are you a taker or a maker?**

Takers are people who feel there is never enough to go around, so the only way to have anything at all is to take it from others. They also believe in luck. But they seldom believe in risk.

Makers are people who know that if it's ever going to happen, it's up to them! They **MAKE** things happen by believing in themselves, by forging ahead, and also by daring to risk.

Maxwell's Hesitation For Moving To The Mountain:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

"The desire for safety stands against every great and noble enterprise."

(Tacitus)

Two types of people when risk is mentioned:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - Their reaction is always, "It won't work - here's what will go wrong..." They are always looking at the down side.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - They constantly have a wonderful idea and seldom think about what could go wrong. They don't ever see the risk.

**MATURITY COMES IN LOOKING AT BOTH SIDES...WEIGHING THE EVIDENCE AND THEN MAKING A WISE DECISION.**

How To March Off The Map Successfully

1. \_\_\_\_\_

"Until you know the worst that could possibly happen and the best that could possibly happen...your equation is incomplete." (Paul Shultheis)

- ◆ What's the worst thing that could happen?
- ◆ What's the best thing that could happen?
- ◆ Is it worth the risk?
- ◆ Have I sought proper counsel?
- ◆ Do I fully understand the process and context of the situation?
- ◆ Have I established definite criteria for any risk I take?
- ◆ How can I break down the project or task into sequential steps in order to minimize risk, yet still keep it going?
- ◆ Have I established test milestones - go/no go point?
- ◆ What risks am I taking by NOT acting in the situation?
- ◆ What research could check my assumptions about the risk?
- ◆ Am I in agreement with the team about our basic assumptions regarding this risk?

Optimism means expecting the best, but confidence means knowing how to handle the worst. Never make a move if you are merely optimistic.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

...Start in areas you \_\_\_\_\_ well

...Start in areas you \_\_\_\_\_ well

...Start in areas where there is \_\_\_\_\_ approval

...Start in areas where there is \_\_\_\_\_ need

...Start in areas where the down side is \_\_\_\_\_

**If you can take the worst...take the risk!**

Only rarely are business failures or poor decisions the result of too much planning; almost universally they can be traced to management ego - the temptation to say, "I don't need a plan; I'm sure I can handle whatever develops."  
(Richard S Sloma)

The Process of Preparation for Vision-casting Sunday:

- A. Presentation of professional staff to the LBA - Feb. 2
- B. LBA meetings (4)
- C. LBA commitment time on the mountain
- D. Vision-casting with Lay Pastor Coordinators
- E. Vision-casting with staff
- F. Vision-casting with top 100 influencers
- G. Vision-casting with lay pastors and adult Sunday school teachers
- H. Vision-casting and prayer time on the mountain with Prayer Partners
- I. Vision-casting with the entire congregation - March 27, A.M.
- J. Discussion and prayer with the entire congregation - March 27, P.M.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

"You will never stub your toe standing still. The faster you go, the more chance there is of stubbing your toe, but the more chance you have of getting somewhere."  
(Charles F. Kettering)

Failing successfully means...

- ...\_\_\_\_\_ from every mistake
- ...Failing forward
- ...\_\_\_\_\_ more than \_\_\_\_\_
- ...Keeping losses to the \_\_\_\_\_
- ...Not allowing \_\_\_\_\_ to control \_\_\_\_\_
- ...Not allowing failures to control \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Conditions change. If you're determined to stick with your original plan no matter what, you're not gutsy, you're stupid.

"Nothing fits in a pigeon hole but a pigeon." (Bill Cosby)

6. \_\_\_\_\_

"The competitive marketplace is strewn with good ideas whose time came and went because inadequate attention was given to moving rapidly and hitting an open window of opportunity. The same marketplace is strewn with broken glass of windows of opportunities hit after they were slammed shut!"

(Constantine Nicandros, President, Conoco)

7. \_\_\_\_\_

"Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long-run than outright exposure."

(Helen Keller)

### Risk Perspectives

8. \_\_\_\_\_

"The story we're called to tell and live and die by is one of risk confronted, death embraced. What's more, Jesus calls us to walk the narrow way, take up a cross with him, daily. It's terribly risky business. Ask that bright company of martyrs that quite recklessly parted with goods, security, and life itself, preferring to be faithful in death rather than safe in life."

(William H. Willimon)

### Skyline's Statement of Purpose

As a dynamic church proclaiming the Word of God, we purpose to make disciples of Christ by...

Exalting God;  
Encouraging Christians toward spiritual maturity;  
Equipping Christians for ministry; and  
Evangelizing the world for Christ

9. \_\_\_\_\_

"Living on the edge of life" is one way to define risk. Risk-taking occurs when we put our reputation, beliefs, financial security, personal well-being, or even our lives on the line. We may do so simply for the thrill. Or we may do so in the hopes of achieving some higher goal – as Samuel Johnson said, "To risk the certainty of little for the chance of much."

The #1 risk question - \_\_\_\_\_?

Whenever leaders put their interest before the organization in which they serve, they are misusing their position and influence.

10. \_\_\_\_\_

If at first you do succeed...try something harder. Risk-taking is a progressive journey.

11. \_\_\_\_\_

"There is a period near the beginning of every man's life when he has little to cling to except his unmanageable dream, little to support him except good health, and nowhere to go but all over the place."

(Essayist E. B. White, 1961)

"The most striking thing about highly effective leaders is how little they have in common. What one swears by, another warns against. But one trait stands out: the willingness to risk."

(Larry Osborne)

12. \_\_\_\_\_

Until I am committed, there is a hesitancy, a chance to draw back. But the moment I definitely commit myself, then God moves also, and a whole stream of events erupt. All manner of unforeseen incidents, meetings, persons and material assistance which I could never have dreamed would come my way, begin to flow toward me - the moment I make a commitment.

13. March forward with \_\_\_\_\_ in the picture.

14. March forward with \_\_\_\_\_ in the picture.

Unless a man undertakes more than he possibly can do, he will never do all he can do.

Unless a team undertakes more than they can possibly do, they will never do all they can do.

But...

When a leader and a team undertake more than they can possibly do and they bring God into the picture, they achieve God-size accomplishments.

### Am I Dangerous?

"Utterly ordinary, so commonplace; while we profess to know a power the twentieth century cannot reckon with. We are all sideliners, coaching and criticizing the real wrestlers while content to sit by and leave the enemies of God unchallenged. We are spiritual pacifists, conscientious objectors in this battle-to-the-death, with principalities and powers in the heavenly places. The world cannot hate us, we are too much like its own. Oh that God would make us dangerous."

(Jim Elliot)