

Week 10- Dedicated

Day 2

Nelson Mandela

There is probably no greater example of dedication than Nelson Mandela and his determination to end apartheid in South Africa. On the list of the most important human rights victories of our time, the end of apartheid has to be at or near the top; and the man most responsible is Nelson Mandela.

Mandela was raised in the countryside and taught from an early age to have great pride in his people, the Themba. When he ran away from town as a young man to escape an arranged marriage, Mandela landed in Johannesburg where he quickly became outraged at the treatment of his fellow blacks under the white minority government.

He became dedicated to the cause after he set up his law firm and saw people jailed simply for being unemployed, for living in the wrong area, and other so called offenses. The white South African government recognized the threat Mandela was to them and created every roadblock conceivable. But instead of throwing up his hands, he would roll up his sleeves and figure out how he could succeed with the conditions at hand, no matter how brutal or unfair they might be.

It wasn't long before Mandela was jailed, yet Mandela always adapted. He was in and out of jail in the 1950's and 1960's. As the price on his head grew higher, he donned a disguise to move throughout the country, earning him the nickname the Black Pimpernel.

Finally the South African government caught up with Mandela and handed him a life sentence in 1962. His statement at the trial became a rallying point for the movement during the 27 years he remained imprisoned.

"During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal, which I hope to live for and achieve. But, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

And he stuck to his word. Twice the government offered Mandela freedom if he would renounce his ideals. Both times he firmly refused, and his legend grew. "Prisoners cannot enter into contracts, only free men can negotiate." Bowing to international pressure, President F.W. DeKlerk summoned Mandela to the presidential palace to negotiate his own release and an end to apartheid. Neither would have been possible without total dedication on Mandela's part.

What does it take to become dedicated to something?

Who is the most dedicated person you know? Why?

Week 10- Dedicated Day 3

Kim Lummus

Kim Lummus was an aide for me at Cleburne High School. She was also on our Girls Basketball team. Kim was telling me one day that since she was in Middle School she had shot and made a certain number of 3 point shots every night before she went to bed. She told me she had done it when she was sick, she had done it in the rain, in freezing cold and even when she got home from the Prom her Junior year. In regionals Cleburne was playing the team that everyone felt was the biggest hurdle in winning the State Championship. With seconds left in the game and Cleburne trailing by two points the coach devised a play to get the ball into Kim's hands. As the buzzer went off the ball went through the net. Cleburne would eventually win the 1995 State Championship, Kim would go on to UT and eventually coach at the collegiate level. She separated herself from every basketball player in Texas with her preparation and dedication.

How do you know Kim was dedicated?

How do you think Kim's dedication helped her when she graduated?

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Day 4

Abraham Lincoln

“The sense of obligation to continue is present in all of us.

A duty to strive is the duty of us all. I felt a call to that duty.” Abraham Lincoln

Born into poverty, Lincoln was faced with defeat throughout his life. He lost eight elections, twice failed in business and suffered a nervous breakdown. But Lincoln was a champion and he never gave up. Here is a sketch of Lincoln’s road to the White House.

1831 – Failed in business

1832 – Defeated for Legislature

1833 – Second failure in business

1836 – Suffered nervous breakdown

1838 – Defeated for Speaker

1840 – Defeated for Elector

1843 – Defeated for Congress

1848 – Defeated for Congress

1855 – Defeated for Senate

1856 – Defeated for Vice President

1858 – Defeated for Senate

1860 – ELECTED PRESIDENT

“The path was worn and slippery. My foot slipped from under me, knocking the other out of the way,” Lincoln said, after losing a Senate race. “But I recovered and said to myself, “It’s a slip and not a fall.”

What do you think Lincoln was dedicated to?

What other qualities have we discussed could dedication impact or reinforce?

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Day 5

Evaluate Your Week

We've been focused on "Dedicated" this week, how did you do? For every goal not met, explain what happened and what you can do differently next week to have success.

If you completed goals, what did you learn?

Write down in complete sentences, something that you learned about "Dedicated" this week.

Of the three stories, "Nelson Mandela", "Kim Lummus", "Abraham Lincoln", which had the greatest impact on you? Why?

Demonstration:

For each day of the week, give yourself either "+" if you demonstrated this quality or "-" if you did not.

M_____ T_____ W_____ Th_____ F_____ Sa_____ Su_____