

The 21 Most Powerful Minutes in a Leader's Day by Maxwell, John C., Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN, 2000. (96 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

Ministry in a Leader's Day

1. Effectiveness.

Leadership ability determines a person's level of effectiveness. (p. 4)

2. Dealing with Life Lids.

Every leader has lids on his life. The issue is never whether you have lids. The issue is what you are going to do about them. (p. 6)

3. Growing Organizations.

To grow the organization, grow the leaders. (p. 9)

4. David's Encourager -- Jonathan.

Jonathan, whom everyone would expect to be a heavy lid on David's life, was instead determined to be his lid lifter. (p. 14)

5. Resist God's Will, No Grace.

"You can't resist the will of God and receive the grace of God at the same time." --Andy Stanley (p. 23)

6. Understand God Through Obedience.

Never try to explain God until you've obeyed Him. The only part of God we understand is the part we have obeyed. (p. 26)

7. God Wants to Do the Impossible.

"God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible-what a pity that we plan only the things we can do by ourselves." -- A. W. Tozer

(p. 27)

8. Family First, Community Benefits.

When a leader puts his family first, the community benefits. When a leader puts the community first, both his family and the community suffer. (p. 29)

9. God Refines Before Use.

Before God could use him, Joseph had to be prepared, purified, and forged into the leader he had potential to become. (p. 37)

10. Time Is Crucial.

Early in his life Joseph lacked experience, wisdom, and humility—three qualities that can be gained only with the passage of time. (p. 40)

11. Progress Happens Through God.

True progress occurs only when God orchestrates it. Joseph understood that self-promotion can never replace divine promotion. (p. 45)

12. Leaders Need to be Driven by Burdens.

Lots of worthwhile activities clamor for a leader's attention. But a need is not necessarily a call. A burden helps a leader know that he must take on a task. (p. 54)

13. Tasks Are Accomplished with Leaders and Workers.

No great task is accomplished without both people to do the work and a leader to guide them. (p. 61)

14. Influence Others Being Influence-able.

"Because you listen, you become influence-able. And being influence-able is the key to influencing others." -- Stephen B. Covey (p. 69)

15. Need Samuel's Ear.

"Leaders need to ask God to give them Samuel's ear." --Bill Hybels (p. 70)

16. Lead Other Leaders.

What is the greatest measure of an E. F. Hutton? The answer is the ability to lead other leaders. (p. 72)

17. Complete One Another.

"We are not here to compete with each other, but to complete each other.
-- Bill McCartney (p. 73)

18. Leaders Have Integrity.

You will never find a disparity between the words and the actions of an E. F. Hutton. Great leaders have integrity. (p. 75)

19. Signs Indicate Being Out-of-bounds.

No leader ends up out of bounds without first passing sign- posts that indicate that he is straying into dangerous territory. (p. 86)

20. Know Your Mistakes.

Knowing why you erred is essential to correction mistakes, but if you can't implement the necessary changes in your life, you won't be able to improve yourself and your situation. (p. 91)

21. Working in Our Own Strength.

"Anything done in our own strength will fail miserably or succeed even miserably."--G. K. Chesterton (p. 92)

22. Leadership Costs.

No matter what leaders believes in will cost them, the price is always higher. (p. 95)

23. People Continue to Follow Those They Respect.

When leaders have influence, people begin to follow them. When they have respect, people keep following them. (p. 101)

24. Respect Yourself.

Gaining the respect of others always begins with having respect for yourself. (p. 104)

25. Successful Leaders Help Others to Succeed.

Leaders cannot help people experience success unless they have themselves been successful. (p. 106)

26. Strong Leaders Earn Respect.

Weak leaders believe that their position or title deserves respect. Strong leaders know "- that they must earn it. (p. 106)

27. Developing Other Leaders.

"A leader who moves up to the people development level changes his focus. He goes from inspiring and leading followers to developing and leading other leaders. (p. 110)

28. Apply Pressure to Yourself.

You can't get people to follow you by applying pressure to them. Instead, you must apply it to yourself. (p. 116)

29. Natural Giftedness.

Everyone is intuitive in his or her area of natural giftedness. (p. 119)

30. Leaders Provide Structure to Flourish.

Good leaders do more than motivate people to follow them in the moment. They provide structure that allows leadership to flourish. (p. 126)

31. Moses Empowered His People to Do Leadership Work.

Moses empowered his people to do the work of leadership, and he did only what they could not do. That's good leadership. (p. 130)

32. Tool of Magnetism.

Magnetism is like money. It's neither good nor bad. It's a tool. (p. 136)

33. Look at Yourself Through Those Who Are Attracted to You.

If you will look at the people you have been attracting as a leader, you will find out a lot about yourself. (p. 137)

34. Respect a Leader's Vision.

Followers do not naturally line up with a leader whose vision they don't respect. (p. 138)

35. Leadership Is Who You Are.

Leadership is not just something you do; it's something you are. And that's one reason that good leaders have such strong magnetism. People are attracted to who they are. (p. 141)

36. Desire for Results Causes Trouble.

Leaders get into trouble when they put their desires for results before

their willingness to develop themselves in areas of competence and character. (p. 142)

37. When Insecure, A Leader Tries to Be Different Than He Is.

The weaker or more insecure a leader is, the more he tries to get others to perceive that he is different from the way he really is. (p. 145)

38. Selfishness Stifles Connecting with Others.

It's difficult to connect with people while pursuing your selfish agenda. By nature, connecting is a giving experience. (p. 154)

39. "What Are You Doing for Others?"

Life's most urgent and persistent question for leaders is, "What are you doing for others?" (p. 155)

40. Meet the Needs of Others.

One of the wisest investments a leader can make is in discerning and meeting the needs of people. (p. 148)

41. True Connecting Is Ongoing.

The truth is that the work of connecting is never finished. True connecting is an ongoing effort. (p. 163)

42. Building Inner Circle Before Being in Leadership.

David didn't wait till he had a leadership position to begin building his inner circle. (p.172)

43. Delegate Tasks.

It has been said that a good executive never puts off to tomorrow what he can have someone else do today. (p. 173)

44. Inner Circles Made Great.

David made his inner circle great, and his inner circle made him great. And that's true of the best leaders. (p. 174)

45. Have Value Because of Who the Inner Circle Is.

David's inner circle didn't have value just because of they could do. They had value because of who they were. (p. 178)

46. Trust Those in Your Inner Circle.

Loyalty alone does not make people candidates for your inner circle. But lack of loyalty definitely disqualifies them. Don't keep anyone close to you whom you cannot trust. (p. 180)

47. The Team Is Key.

"The main ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team." --John Wooden (p. 182)

48. More Is Said Than Done.

"After all has been said and done, more will have been said and done." --Marshall McLuhan (p. 185)

49. Lifter or Limiter?

Every leader is either a lifter or a limiter of people. If you limit people, you limit not only them but also yourself. But if you lift them up, then there's no telling how far they-or you-can go. (p. 193)

50. You Succeed When Helping Others.

To make an impact, you must add value to your people because the only way for you to truly succeed is to help others. (p. 194)

51. Take Chances On Others.

To be an encouraging leader, you have to be willing to take chances on people. (p. 195)

52. Sing Your People's Praises.

One of the best things you can do as an empowering leader is to sing your people's praises to others. (p. 196)

53. Empower People First.

They empower people first, then discover their worth. (p. 198)

54. Need Clear Vision and Communicate It Well.

Leaders who don't possess a clear vision and communicate it well always have a difficult time empowering others. (p. 201)

55. Real Understanding to Straighten Things.

"When the country is in chaos, everybody has a plan to fix it-but it takes a leader of real understanding to straighten things out." Proverbs 28:2 (nasb) (p. 207)

56. Leadership Takes Time.

Leaders aren't developed overnight. They can't be made in a microwave. They have to be simmered in a Crock-Pot. (p. 211)

57. Cannot Teach Attitude or Obedience.

Some things only emerging leaders themselves can provide. You cannot give them the right attitude or the will to learn and obey. (p. 214)

58. Test Comes When No Mentor.

The acid test for a new leader comes when his mentor is no longer in the

picture. (p.218)

59. Need Ability to Convince Others of Vision.

All leaders have vision. But all people who possess vision are not leaders. I've known a lot of would-be leaders who possessed vision but lacked the ability to get people to buy in to them. (p. 228)

60. Gideon Was Willing.

Gideon's willingness to take responsibility opened the door for God to ask him to step up to a whole new level of responsibility- to leadership. (p. 233)

61. God Asks for Obedience.

God is much more likely to reward our obedience with an explanation than He is to give an explanation to encourage our obedience. (p. 234)

62. Leaders Need to be Involved.

Victory always carries a personal cost for leaders. They cannot remain outside the process and direct it. They have to be involved. (p. 251)

63. All Leadership Situations Have Keys to Victory.

Every leadership situation is different, but they all contain a key to victory. If you are the leader, you must find that key and turn it. (p. 251)

64. Leadership Transition Time is Critical for Momentum.

The time of transition from one leader to another is the most critical time for continuing momentum. (p. 265)

65. Momentum Never Sustainable.

Momentum never sustains itself. (p. 268)

66. Leaders Sustain Momentum.

What is the key that makes it possible for an organization to keep the momentum going? The answer is not what but who: the leader. It takes a leader to sustain momentum. (p. 269)

67. Momentum Has Direction.

Momentum always has a direction. (p. 269)

68. Fires Burn from Within.

You can't kindle a fire in any other heart until it is burning within your own." -- Eleanor Doon (p. 270)

69. Negative Attitudes Stifle Momentum.

I have yet to meet a leader with a chronically negative attitude who was able to continually sustain positive momentum. (p. 271)

70. Know What You Want in Life.

"If you really know what you want out of life, it's amazing how opportunities will come to enable you to carry them out." --John M. Goddard (p. 282)

71. Win Victories at The End.

"We will have all eternity to celebrate the victories, but only a few hours before sunset to win them." --Amy Carmichael (p. 287)

72. Jesus Spent Time with Disciples.

Jesus didn't invest an equal amount of time in everyone. Although He spent a lot of time with the crowds, He spent the vast majority of His time with twelve men-the disciples. (p. 291)

73. Leadership Always Costs.

Leadership always has a cost. (p. 301)

74. Sacrifices Cost.

Nothing is a sacrifice unless it actually costs you something.

75. Self-reliance and God Don't Mix.

A person can't be staunchly self-reliant and hungry for God at the same time. (p. 303)

76. Sacrifices Cost.

Life is filled with trade-offs. But you can trade up only if you have something to sacrifice. (p. 305)

77. Leaders Sacrifice.

Sacrifice is the true nature of leadership. (p. 306)

78. Can't Cling to Security.

If you want to keep moving up to your potential, you can't cling to the security of what you now possess. (p. 309)

79. Live Outside of Self.

"A person starts to live when he can live outside of himself."--Albert Einstein (p. 310)

80. So. Moses' People Entered the Land, Moses Did Not.

Moses spent a total of eighty years in the desert, and he still didn't get to enter the promised land. But his people did. (p. 311)

81. People Make Leaders Successful.

Ultimately leaders are not successful unless other people want them to be. (p. 318)

82. Following God Does Not Have Coincidences.

It's easy to think that a person being in the right place at the right time was coincidence. But when a leader is following God, nothing is coincidental. (p. 318)

83. Leaders Follow God's Prompting.

When God is involved, it's not necessarily the giftedness of the leader that prompts God's blessing; it's more often the leader's willingness to move when and where He indicates. (p. 322)

84. Leadership Always Has Risks.

In leadership, there's no such thing as zero risk. (p. 322)

85. Know When to Act.

If you're a leader, it's not enough to know what to do. You have to know when to act. (p. 327)

86. Taking Opportunities Requires Heart and Courage.

The word courage comes from a French word that means "heart." In other words, taking advantage of an opportunity at the right time requires heart. (p. 329)

87. Narrow Focus on A Few People.

A fascinating irony of leadership is that if you want to do something really big that involves a lot of people, you need to narrow your focus to a few people. (p. 335)

88. Paul's Mentoring Did Not Make His Life Easier.

As Paul developed leaders, he didn't hoard them. He didn't mentor people with the sole purpose of making his life easier. (p.339)

89. Teach and Develop Other Leaders.

The first and most important quality of a leader is the ability to teach and develop other leaders. (p. 341)

90. Leaders Need Integrity and Discipline.

People without integrity won't play by the rules. And people without discipline can't -- win by the rules. It takes both qualities. (p. 342)

91. Focus on the Best in Leaders.

Explosive growth leaders focus on the best in their leaders; they also focus on the best potential leaders. (p. 345)

92. Legacy Was Christ's Method.

The gospel was His message, but legacy was His method. Everything depended on the job He did with those twelve men. (p. 355)

93. Responsible for Our Efforts.

While it may be true that history judges the results of our actions, we are responsible for our efforts. No one leaves a legacy by accident. (p. 356)

94. Your Legacy Tomorrow?

What are you doing today to leave your legacy tomorrow? (p. 358)

95. Teaching and Actions Consistent.

The disciples saw that there was consistency between His teaching and His actions, and they learned the how and why of all He did. (p. 361)

96. Legacies Change the Leader and Others.

A legacy is a dream that changes not only your life but also the lives of all the people it touches. (p. 365)