

7

Secrets To Walk Your Talk As A World Class Leader

*Become a World Class Leader
worth following.*

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7 SECRETS TO WALK YOUR TALK AS A WORLD CLASS LEADER

Imagine how different the world would be if more people in leadership positions “Walked The Talk”...

Now imagine if we as leaders stepped up and walked our talk *at a World Class Level*...

Master the following 7 areas and you will Walk The Talk at a World Class Level:

1. Really Know Your “Talk”

To be a World Class Leader, you have to be crystal clear about what your “talk” is. Others want to follow a leader who is confident, competent and who consistently and effectively communicates a compelling vision.

It is very common that people in leadership positions assume that by working hard, others will take notice, be motivated and want to follow. This is simply not the case. Others will not just “know” what your intended talk is by default. Hard work alone will not translate to being a World Class Leader. Instead, learn how to regularly communicate your talk so that others have a clear understanding of what you stand for.

Invest the time necessary to develop total clarity about what your talk is. It is a leadership action with a very high return on investment. Here are five important questions specifically designed to help you identify what your talk is:

- What are your standards?
- What are your core values and beliefs?
- What do you represent?
- What is your message and vision as a leader?
- How specifically do your answers to the above questions show up in how you lead and in the environment you are creating?

The ultimate goal regarding your talk is to identify your desired talk *and* have others also clearly understand what you stand for and what your vision is. The lesser the gap between what *others* believe your talk to be, and what you want your talk to be, the higher the trust, respect and credibility for you becomes.

2. The "Walk"

Take pride in being consistent and congruent where your actions, behavior and habits match your talk. Talking the talk is fairly easy, yet one distinction that will separate you as a World Class Leader from other leaders and cultivate credibility is consistently demonstrating that what you say and what you do is in alignment.

Think of your walk as your habits and actions. Habits can only become habits if you repeat them often enough. Begin by increasing your own level of awareness of existing habits. Are they supporting your talk? Are you consistent with your actions, so that others can feel confident that you are predictable in terms of you doing what you say you will do? How well you "walk" your talk will directly impact how much others trust and respect you.

Here are four examples of helpful questions as you ponder your "walk":

- How specifically are you currently walking your talk?
- What specific *new* actions can you take that will further strengthen your talk?
- Is there anything you need to *stop* doing as it detracts from what your talk is?
- How will you provide evidence in the eyes of others that you are congruently and consistently walking your talk that you deliberately created?

3. Power of Perceptions & Expectations

Clearly understanding how you are perceived as a leader is crucial – and not optional for long-term success.

Others will treat you the way *they* perceive you and your leadership ability, not the way you perceive yourself. There is a direct correlation between others having a positive perception of you and their high level of motivation, loyalty and productivity.

Additionally, it is very likely that others have expectations of you as a leader. Learning what these expectations are is very helpful, as they are different for different people. What is the best way to find out what these expectations are? Ask others to share their expectations with you, either individually, in groups or both. When you make others feel listened to, it will further strengthen your credibility as a leader. You will also learn valuable information that will help you as a World Class Leader.

When you know what others expect from you, and you then match and even exceed these expectations, magic happens!

4. Mindset of lifelong learning

School is always in session for the World Class. Learning is a way of life and everyone, regardless of position and title, can be your teacher.

When you demonstrate a mindset where you are continually learning, you set a positive example for others.

Imagine the limitless possibilities when your organization/team share in this learning mindset. Having the belief that “what got us here, will not get us there” is a healthy belief that will drive you towards continued excellence.

New experiences and expanded knowledge will directly contribute to new insights. These new insights will in turn positively affect how you lead and how you make decisions. Decide to be a learning sponge.

Being respected as a leader is very important and one proven way to cultivate the respect that others have for you is to listen to their opinions. Feeling heard and listened to is something that truly motivates people. By listening to them, there are multiple benefits – they feel heard and you learn valuable insights that can help you make decisions in your role as a World Class Leader.

5. Possibility thinking

Seeing possibilities and opportunities is an extremely valuable and important skill - especially as a leader. Such leaders attract a loyal following that will be inspired and encouraged to think of ways where they too, can contribute with their possibility thinking.

“That’s how we’ve always done it” is simply not in the vocabulary of a World Class Leader. Instead, continue looking for ways to modify, tweak and even transform how things are currently done. Be open-minded and creative as you focus on what is possible.

One proven success strategy that will serve you well as a possibility thinker, is to commit to learning from fields outside of where you normally spend most of your time. As you are learning, reading or watching something from a different field, ask yourself questions such as:

- “How can I apply this as a World Class Leader?”
- “What new distinctions can I make that I can share with my team?”
- “What best practices can be modeled or fine tuned to work for me and my team?”

In other words, take something that you learn from a different field, or from someone in a different occupation, and relate it to your field and your role as a leader.

Commit to spending at least 10 minutes a day learning something new that will fuel your possibility thinking. You may not see right away how you will apply what you learned, but imagine the benefits of building a library of best practice references with this habit.

6. Know your Success Factors

Identify specific Success Factors that produce results for you, then commit to applying them as frequently as possible.

There are many types of Success Factors, including success habits, skill sets and identifying what specifically contributes to an outstanding work environment.

Existing Success Factors will fall into one of two categories: The first category is those factors you are already aware of. Make a list of what you already know helps you get excellent results and contributes to your success. Once you have compiled your list, commit to keeping it visible in one or more places. Then look for, and create opportunities to implement these Success Factors. Being proactive about implementing your Success Factors is directly in line with being a World Class Leader and will greatly increase your performance.

Secondly, reflect upon existing Success Factors that have contributed to your success that you have not yet paid attention to. Make a list of these Success Factors. With this newfound awareness, reflect upon how you can actively implement them in your day-to-day leadership.

Furthermore, you can also identify potential Success Factors that you would like to develop, as you know they will directly contribute to your success as a leader. Having this proactive action mindset will positively impact your World Class performance.

7. World Class Coaching, Mentoring & Masterminds

Leaders with World Class standards understand that having coaches, mentors and being part of masterminds are important ingredients to their continued success.

The right coach and mentor will stretch your mental capacity and help you enter the Development Zone, which lies outside your existing comfort zone. They will ask you questions that help you focus on areas you had not previously focused on. They will guide you and support you. They serve as a resource in sharing your thoughts, ideas and potential actions.

All coaches and mentors aren't right for you. Make sure that they walk their talk at a world class level. If they have a world class mindset and commitment, it will directly contribute to your success as a leader. Pay attention to how congruent they are in terms of their actions and habits matching what they claim to stand for. Do you respect them? Do you trust them? Besides reading their credentials, do you find them credible?

Being part of one or more mastermind groups is another success strategy that will help you become a World Class Leader. Imagine the amazing benefits of spending time brainstorming solutions with other leaders coming together from different fields. There are countless new distinctions made leading to incredible results. All mastermind groups are not right for you. Get in a group with World Class leader who will facilitate the mastermind and set the tone by creating a World Class environment.

To your success as a World Class Leader,

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