



## Greatness Comes from Reacting

In my opinion, there is no greater test of character than rejection and injustice. Our reaction to those events truly reveals our inner greatness or ultimate uselessness. It's certainly not fair but it is the best method of revealing who we truly are.

I remember many years ago I ran my first marathon. I did not train enough but I participated anyway. Around the 20-mile mark I saw two runners leaning against a chain link fence. They were balling their eyes out, both exhausted and totally empty. I could completely relate to what they were feeling. Whatever reason made me begin my marathon had long since laid trampled on the pavement behind me. My pride was gone, my determination and even my positive mental attitude all were a casualty of my multi-hour efforts. Though I had no reason to continue, I did so purely because it was simple... one foot in front of the next. In the end, I finished... but that was my only accomplishment... completion. My reaction to exhaustion was simple - don't stop doing the simple thing... shuffling along.

Life and careers, however, are not as simple as running. They sometimes require giant levels of focused effort. When all things seem hopeless, simple running or jogging may not be enough. Facing life's greatest challenges requires a focus on proper attitudes and perspectives. Then, and only then, can effective reactions be formulated. Attitude comes first; wisdom and understanding second. Aligning our attitudes with grace, mercy, humility, service, sacrifice and compassion (along with all the other good attitudes) will eventually produce the great results. Reactions show the world our greatness (or uselessness).

The best attitudes and consequential reactions will always require courage and fortitude. The courage isn't needed for just a week or a month, it's almost always a requirement year over year.

I have two close friends going through a very sad divorce. Their anger may be justified, and their feeling of rejection is obvious but their reaction to their circumstances is anything but typical. Their

focus on their child as well as on their own long-term well-being has given them the vision to react with integrity and valor. It is truly an honor to watch, step by step as they make the right choices at every new situation. Their determination has lasted for nearly a year, but it is clear their greatness is already beginning to shine. It's not that they don't have moments of great sorrow and exhaustion... but they haven't given up on their path to maturity and they don't seem to be vulnerable to it (at least yet). All-be-it, they do have a close friend and mentor who has gone through it before them (a super advantage I admit) but it still takes an independent will to succeed. They themselves make their choices every day. Nobody can take that away from them.

Endurance is the mother of greatness. Perseverance is the seed from which nobility is born. Anyone can endure a few days or weeks, but greatness requires these two resources in years or even decades.

Don't give up doing what is right. Don't compromise sound principles for shortcuts and fast times. We can't water down our character with the selfish and easy ways of common humanity and think that we won't suffer for it.

True greatness requires proof of endurance, consistent positive and shining reactions in dark times. It's what our children and grandchildren will tell their friends about us. We overcame dark, hard and perilous challenges.

### About the Author:

Robert D. Scheper is a leading Accountant and Consultant to the Lease/Owner operator industry in Canada. His first book in the Making Your Miles Count series "taxes, taxes, taxes" was released in 2007. His firm exclusively serves Lease/Owner Operators across Canada. His second book "Choosing a Trucking company" is the most in-depth analysis of the operator industry available today. He has a Master degree (MBA) in financial management and has been serving the industry since he and his wife came off the road in 1993. His dedication, commitment and strong opinions can be read and heard in many articles and seminars.

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