

# THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE

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John 11:6

As a leader you must understand the difference between what is important and what is urgent. When you are in a position of leadership you will encounter people approaching you with issues that require you to have a sense of urgency while holding **NO** sense of importance.

The things that are urgent require **IMMEDIATE** attention. However, what is important has meaning and significance. The leader who does not understand the difference between the two will minor on the major and major on the minor.

## WHAT TO DO FIRST!

Is it wiser to do what is urgent or what is important first?

Beyond contrary belief it is wiser to do what is

**IMPORTANT FIRST**. The common answer to this question is to do what is urgent. While this may make sense, it is not true in most cases.

In some cases, there are exceptions when urgent matters are a priority. However, under most circumstances it is wiser to do what is **IMPORTANT FIRST**. Jesus taught this lesson in John 11:1-44.

In this passage, Lazarus was sick and on his death bed. Mary and Martha sent someone to tell Jesus about the condition of Lazarus. When Jesus heard about this He did not drop what he was doing.

He did not put His agenda on hold. He did not rush to see Lazarus. According to John 11:6 King Jesus stayed where He was two more days.

By the time Jesus came to see Lazarus he had been dead for four days. Martha heard that Jesus was on His way to see Lazarus. When He was close by Martha greeted Him and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

People have a way of making you feel guilty about their problems. They have a way of making their urgency your emergency. King Jesus did not let anyone distract Him from what was important to Him. Mary and Martha saw Lazarus death as an urgent matter. However, Jesus saw his death an opportunity to reveal the glory of God.

When you view a persons urgency as an opportunity they will not have the power to pull you away from your agenda. As a leader, Jesus took control of the situation. He did not allow the situation to dictate His schedule. He did not allow the moment to influence His mind. He did not allow the guilt to change His outlook.

As a leader, you have to stay focused on what is important (significant) to you. Leaders achieve great things because they do not pick up problems that do not **DIRECTLY** affect them. They **DO NOT** give their time to things that are not beneficial to their cause. They **DO NOT** invest themselves into situations that does not align with their purpose.

## STAY ON COURSE

Jesus stayed on course! His focus was the Kingdom of God. His passion was the Kingdom of God. His ministry was the Kingdom of God. His purpose was to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth.

Jesus stayed on course because He did what was important **FIRST**. He completed His purpose in three short years because He did what was important **FIRST**. He accomplished all of His goals because He did what was important **FIRST**.

What is important to you will become urgent to you. However, what is urgent to others will become an opportunity for you. Knowing the difference between what is important and urgent will help you stay on course with your plans.

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