

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for June 2022**

Web Site



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Grand Commander's Message

Greetings, Sir Knights:

I hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of their summer. Summer is a time to be spent with our families and friends and reflect on the goodness that God has bestowed upon every one of us. This month's message continues the discussion of the six distinct characteristics of servant leaders. The characteristic for last month was Integrity and Humility is the characteristic for this month.

HUMILITY

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. — Colossians 3:12 (NLT)

A true servant leader is one who is humble first toward God in obedience to the First and Greatest Commandment: Matthew 22:37 (NLV) "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and your entire mind." Regardless of whether it is in your vocation, daily life, or the Fraternity, a leader is accountable for his actions to the God of all creation.

The Second Greatest Commandment: Matthew 22:39 (NLV) "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." A servant leader is one who honors others. Leadership is a complex relationship between leaders and followers united together in a common cause. Any type of success in business, everyday life, or the Fraternity is not true if it lacks moral integrity and is at the expense of people's worth rather than respecting them as the dignified sacred creations of God. For leaders, as you guide your Lodge, Chapter, Council, or Commandery toward its goal, you must not be prideful or self-

servant but use your skills to empower others to fulfill their potential by encouraging and valuing their development.

A servant leader is someone who can learn and grow from the experiences and opinions of others. In servant leadership, we must be willing to learn from and listen to those we lead, because we know that they have value and worth. The truth is that they might have better ideas than we do or a perspective we do not.

Servant leaders tend to be humbled by the cause they serve. For the servant leader, “it is not all about me” – it is about serving something greater than ourselves.

Sir Knights, as we continue through this Templar year I pray for the blessings and peace of our Lord over your lives.

In His Service,
James R. Taylor, Jr.
R.: E.: Grand Commander



GRAND PRELATE'S MESSAGE

Starting Over

Scriptures: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Instant replays have become old hat. We now expect them in all televised sports. Whether it's a tennis pro's impressive backhand or an NBA center's slam dunk or a heavyweight boxer's smashing jab, we never have to worry about missing it the first time around. It'll be back again and again and, probably, *again*.

It has occurred to me that I'd enjoy (for lack of a better title) *delayed* replays of some of the more significant times in my life. But these would be different from fixed frames on film. In "delayed replays," I'm fantasizing the possibility of going back and being given another chance to relive a particular experience that could have been handled differently. More wisely, with greater tact, in better taste, you know—all those "if-I-had-that-to-do-over-again" thoughts. What a second chance that would be!

Just think of all the things we'd refrain from saying that we blurted out the first time around. And consider the different attitudes we would have toward unexpected interruptions, unplanned babies, unrealistic expectations and unimportant details. I really think we would take a lot more things a lot less seriously, don't you?

Fun times form great memories . . . so let's hear it for fewer frowns and more smiles. Laughter lingers. It soaks into the walls of a home, coming back to encourage us many years later.

Yes, if we had the benefit of "delayed replays," we would gain a lot of perspective on life we often miss the first time around.

But unfortunately, second times around don't happen. We cannot re-rear our children. Initial impressions cannot be remade. Cutting remarks cannot be re-said. Scars can't be completely removed. Tear stains on the delicate fabric of our emotions are, more often than not, permanent. Memories are fixed, not flexible.

"You mean God won't forgive?"

You know better than that.

"And people can't overlook my failures?"

Come on, now. That's not the issue at all. Most people, I know, are amazingly, understanding. Our biggest task is forgiving *ourselves*.

The main message is clear: think before you speak. Pause before you act.

Another chance? No chance. It's absolutely impossible to go back and start over. Today is tomorrow's yesterday . . . and "delayed replays," will never occur. Today is memory in the making, a deposit in the bank of time. Let's make it a good one!

In the now-or-later battle for priorities, it's clear where the secret lies. Let's take care of the biggies now—today. It's amazing how the incidentals will fade away when we focus fully on the essentials. And that's impossible unless we put the important ahead of the urgent.

SK Steven Cox EGP

KNIGHT TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

We get a lot of information put to us, facts and figures, but the thing we don't get is the feeling of a person who is sight impaired. Right now you are reading this State News. The Blind have to use a reader or magnified version to do the same. I have a Brother Mason/Lion that is sight impaired he walks with a white cane and misses out on most of the beauty of the world. He does not complain, but I surely believe he would give anything to see again. I work with the Masons and Lions Club using a Spot camera to check the vision of children and adults. We have had persons come back to us and tell us trees and not just green but have leaves.

Glasses alone are not the final answer. There was and is the research that gave me the ability to have Multi-Focal lenses so I do not have to wear glasses and the research that gave my wife to slow down Macular Degeneration and keep her Glaucoma in check. The research funded by the Knights Templar Foundation has made great strides in giving and maintaining sight, "but", we are still far from that day when the saying is "LET THERE BE LIGHT" happens. Look at the beauty around you. Now imagine there is just blackness.

There is a representative in your Commandery that will give you all the information on how to contribute both money and effort.

SK John E. King VEDGC

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