

## Module 7 Notes

We've reached the culmination of our Introduction to Ethical Leadership course. As we conclude this journey, we'll consider delegation, navigating failure, and understanding the true essence of success. Let's explore these concepts and reflect on their significance in our roles as ethical leaders.

### **Golfer vs. Stewardship Delegation: Empowerment and Responsibility**

One fundamental aspect of leadership is delegation. Yet, not all forms of delegation are created equal. There's a distinction between "golfer" delegation, where leaders merely pass tasks, and "stewardship" delegation, where leaders empower others to take ownership and responsibility. Stewardship delegation fosters growth, accountability, and a shared sense of accomplishment. Learn more about these concepts in Module 7 Lecture Materials & Resources.

### **Understanding Failure: Mistakes, Falling, and Failing**

As we discussed last week, mistakes are natural and valuable for growth. However, it's essential to distinguish mistakes from failure. Mistakes are stepping stones, and failure should not be seen as final. Instead, failure can be reframed as an opportunity to learn, improve, and try again. The concepts of "failing forward" and "sometimes you win, sometimes you learn" reinforce the idea that setbacks are part of the journey toward success.

### **Dealing with Discouragement: Moving Beyond Failure**

Facing failure can be discouraging, but it's crucial not to let it define us. While disappointment is natural, true leaders find the strength to rise above it. Dealing with discouragement requires resilience, a growth mindset, and the ability to tap into our support networks. Remember, failure doesn't determine your worth as a leader; your response to failure does. This is especially true for ethical leaders who have faith, hope, and love. As leaders who rely on God, we have access to faith and to his armor. In the words of St. Augustine "[h]e who has God has everything, he who has everything but God has nothing."

### **The Essence of Success: Hard Work, Prayer, and Suffering**

True Leadership ends with an analysis of success based on St. Maximilian Kolbe's insight that "significant accomplishments are based on three pillars: hard work, prayer, and suffering" which holds profound wisdom.

1. **Hard Work:** Success rarely comes without diligence and effort. Leaders who invest time and energy into their goals lay the foundation for meaningful achievements.
2. **Prayer:** Spiritual connection and guidance play a vital role in leadership success. Prayer fosters inner strength, clarity, and a sense of purpose that guides ethical decision-making.
3. **Suffering:** Suffering might seem counterintuitive to success, but it shapes our character and resilience. It's through challenges that we learn, grow, and appreciate the journey.

### **Course Wrap-Up & Thank You!**

As we wrap up our Introduction to Ethical Leadership course, remember that leadership is a dynamic journey. Stewardship delegation empowers others while fostering growth. Failure is a stepping stone, an opportunity to learn and improve. Discouragement can be overcome through resilience and support. And success is not just about accomplishments; it's about hard work, spiritual connection, and the wisdom gained from suffering.

As you continue your leadership journey, keep in mind the lessons we've explored. Embrace each experience, whether it's a success, a mistake, or a challenge, as an opportunity to learn and grow. By cultivating a mindset of continuous improvement and a heart that remains open to the lessons life offers, you'll find yourself on a path of ethical leadership that leaves a positive impact on the world. At St. Thomas University we are here to help you on this path, this is only the beginning, and we look forward to supporting your journey as an ethical leader.

Thank you all for your dedication and engagement throughout this course. Your contributions enrich our collective wisdom and our community of ethical leaders.