

WORK ETHIC – LESSON 14

The Pursuit of Happyness



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INTRODUCTION: It is a rare day when we would take the time to watch a movie in our welding and machining program, however this one is worth the time. We will be watching the movie “**The Pursuit of Happyness,**” which is based off the real life story of Chris Gardner (played by actor Will Smith). The movie has great merit regarding the issue of work ethic. **WARNING...***This movie will rub you wrong if you are into entitlement!*

The questions in this lesson are based off different segments of the movie which I have been broken down for discussion.

The Pursuit

1. Why did Chris associate “happiness” with a good career or job?
2. Do you think your career will have a big influence on at least a portion of your “pursuit of happiness” in life? Why or why not?
3. “Happiness” is a relative term and means different things to different people. The reality of life is that we will all face difficult things. It’s not if but when. When the “going gets tough” in life, like it did for Chris, what or who will you turn to? What will get you through these difficult times?
4. Describe a difficult experience you have went through in your life. What is the difference between how you felt at the time versus how you feel now about the situation? What did you take away from the experience that helps you today?

The Interview

1. If you were not able to dress appropriately for an interview as in Chris Gardner's case, would you go to the interview? Why or why not? What would you have done?
2. What impressed you the most about his interview? What do you think the management was thinking when they looked at the way Chris was dressed?
3. The saying goes, "don't judge a book by its cover". Describe a time in life when you did this and were dead wrong about another person.
4. In what ways could you prepare yourself for the career field you want to enter?
5. Would you work for 30 days without pay to get your dream job? Why or why not?

The Internship

1. What did Chris do to make the most of his time as an intern? Watch for the details!
2. At this point in your life are you a “go and get it” type of person or a “sit back and wait” type of person? Why are you this way? Be honest with yourself here.
3. What do you feel is motivating Chris during his time period as an intern?
4. Would you be willing to be the “gopher” like Chris was asked to do? Why or why not? Do you consider this butt-kissing? Why or why not?

Desperation

1. What consequences did Chris face from not paying rent? (Give some detail here. This is more than just “not having a place to sleep”)
2. As a father, how do you think Chris felt having to spend the night in a subway bathroom with his son? Describe the emotions in detail, the things going through his head and heart during this time. What do you think was going through his son’s head and heart though this ordeal?
3. How did Chris show humility in having to ask for help at the homeless shelter?
4. How easy is it for you to set aside your pride to ask for help? In doing, so do you risk losing your integrity? Why or why not?

Success

1. How does it feel when you see someone finally succeeding, when the “underdog” prevails? How did it make you feel to see Chris “make it”? Describe another underdog that you have seen “make it”.
2. After seeing all of what Chris went through, would you be willing to go to the same effort to provide a good and secure income for your family?
3. Describe how watching this movie has influenced you. What are the key things you took away from it?