

## “Overcoming Mediocrity”

Some favorite statements you might have heard people use when facing some type of a task:

I will get this over with if it kills me.  
Just get the job finished as quickly as possible.  
Don't worry about it. No one will ever notice.  
Don't worry about the content of the bill. No one will ever read it.

What might be some excuses one might have for setting a mediocre goal for a task?

I don't have a lot of time for this.  
Time is of the essence.  
Who cares?  
Quantity is what is important. Not Quality.

Some favorite statements you might have heard people use when facing some type of a task:

Take your time. We want your best.  
Remember. People are going to look over your work very carefully.  
They represent the people. I care about my vote.  
Now, what did we learn today?

What might be some excuses one might have for setting excellence as a goal for a task?

I do not care how much time it takes. I want it right.  
This has to be good. This work is a reflection of me.  
We deserve only the best in elected positions.  
Education is a lifelong process.

One fence and two sides for that fence.

Which side do you want your doctor to be on when he operates on you?  
You may have choices about where your children go to school. Which school will you send them to?  
Your boss retired and you meet the person who replaces him. You have been asked to participate in a project for your community by the new boss.

Whatever the situation is.....which side of the fence do you stand on?

Choices. We always make choices from daylight to dawn. We always have those hard decisions to make during the course of our life. I truly believe that there is an inherent good in people. Why is it so hard to find it some of the time? My answer to my own question is simple. Continue looking for the good in others but concentrate on letting them see the inherent good in you. Don't settle for second rate. Don't settle for just being ordinary in all that one does. When the choices we make are to be inherently good to others I believe that example can affect them. If others are changed from second rate to first rate, if others are changed from finding it hard for others to see their good, if others see that just average is not good enough for oneself..... then the ability of people, one on one, one day at a time is to be the example of excellence that can be achieved by all and mediocrity is no longer acceptable. The norm then falls on the side of excellence in ones daily life. Then a contribution has been made by each and every one of us to no longer accept mediocrity in our lives and always expect excellence from ourselves as well as others.

God wants nothing less for each and every one of us. When we achieve excellence is all phases of our lives then that is the best way that we can glorify God. I repeat. God wants nothing less for each and every one of us.

“So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the Law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12 RSV)

Choices. Yes there are many ways to accomplish going from mediocrity to excellence. I just thought the one most proven way I would suggest to you. If you have another...and better way, no it really can't be better. Over the years the Golden Rule has not tarnished nor has it accepted change. Absolute truth exists in this rule. One day at a time, one person at a time.

Richard Hurt, Retired Classroom Teacher