

VOICES OF HOPE



DR. LASHARANDA BECKWITH

MISSION

Ignited by faith, we live out God's love by embracing, equipping and empowering vulnerable people in Southern California

VISION

Sharing the love of Christ, we are a community to care and be cared for...

Where the vulnerable are safer and stronger

Where the dependent are self-sustaining

Where the isolated dwell in community

Where the weary will be given hope

VALUES

*Compassion / Advocacy
Collaboration / Respect
Innovation / Stewardship*

Happy Friday!

What's your week been like? Have you been having fun? Have you been looking for opportunities around you? Have you entered each day deciding that you would not let anyone spoil it for you? I hope so. Remember, you have to be intentional in looking for the silver lining.

I was recently talking to another female senior executive. She was frustrated because she had sat in a meeting with a hugely diverse group of executives. The reason she called me to vent was because the session had just ended, and she was beside herself. I knew that something had gotten under her skin the minute I answered my phone. "Hi, there, my friend," I said to her. "How's it going? So glad to hear from you." She said, "Things are well, but I have to vent about something that happened to me today. Would you say that I am an accomplished woman?" "Yes," I responded. "Do you think I am smart and capable?" "Of course, I do. Don't be ridiculous." "Well, you would think when I speak, my voice must be so soft and quiet, no one hears me," I laughed. "Why?" I asked. "Because some people in the group act as if they don't hear me or they have to explain what I had just said in clear English." I chuckled again. However, it was not funny. I have been there too. Many of you have also. Do you know the difference between successful people and others? They know when to go to war and when it's not worth it. Most times the energy we exhaust trying to be heard, just isn't worth it. Save it for another day.

A quote from Shirley Chisolm says, "if they won't give you a seat at the table, bring your folding chair." I love that quote. What I told my friend was this: Ignore them. That's it. Ignore them and keep on talking. Yes, it is frustrating, but she can focus on the moment's injustice and carry that anger for the rest of the day and maybe even for a long while; tell me, what good will that do? It will do her no good. It will hurt her. Or she can choose to be happy in the face of that feeling of dismissal. Is it possible? Sure, it is.

When people ignore you or overtalk you, they may be aware of their actions and they may not be aware. Please give them the benefit of the doubt. If they continue, talk to them. What you don't want to do is carry hurt that turns to resentment that turns to hate. You have to be the bigger person. If you don't remember anything that I share with you today, remember this, God called you and placed you where you are to do what He wants you to do. You are His. He holds you in the palm of His hands. What He has given you, no one can take away. You have to keep speaking what you know and learn to laugh in the face of foolishness. Reaffirm who you are through God's word. Suppose you think of yourself as the one chosen by God to be at the table, in the room, or leading a team. In that case, your perspective will change, and you will not be bothered for very long when others try to marginalize you. Remember what Eleanor Roosevelt said, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." Get it? I hope so.

As we close out this week, know that you have what it takes. Keep that attitude and it will be hard for anyone to push you to the sidelines.

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." - 2 Timothy 2:15

Blessings,

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President & Chief Executive Officer