

Leadership Lessons From Lincoln

By Dale Rutter



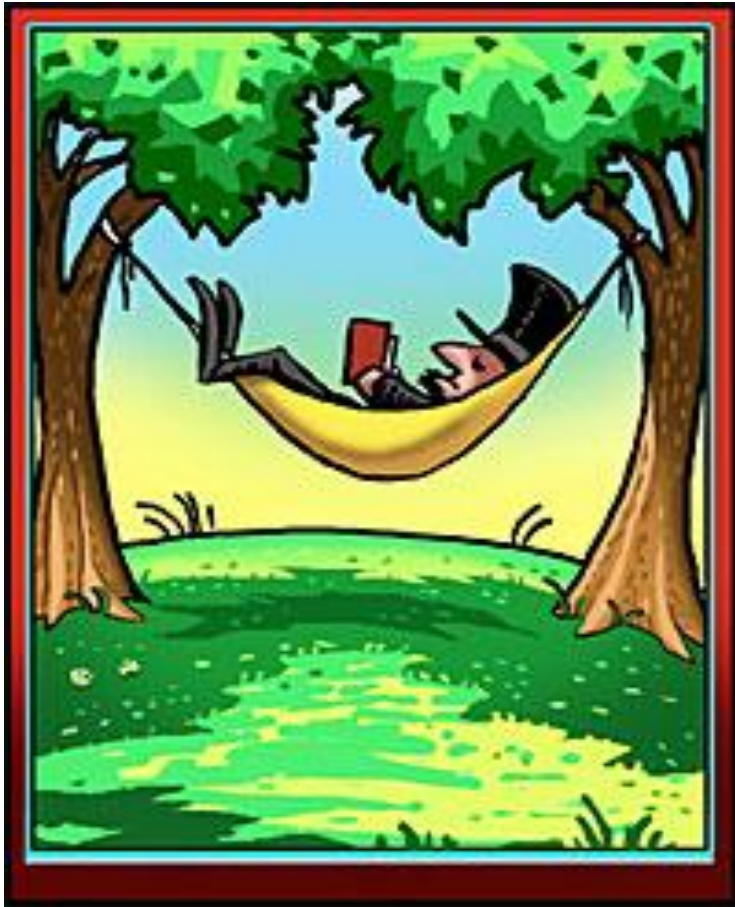
Acknowledge your errors and learn from your mistakes.

That was something Lincoln was particularly good at, and it commanded respect from allies and opponents alike.



Listen deeply to what people on all sides say.

Lincoln was a northerner, but understood the plight of the southerners. He incorporated their feelings and struggles into his speeches and correspondence.



Be able to relax and replenish your energy.

In Lincoln's case, he went to the theater and told humorous stories before tough cabinet meetings.



Keep your anger in perspective.

When Lincoln got angry with someone, he had a ritual of writing a letter that expressed all his emotions. But he then put it aside and never sent it.



Don't be a success hog.

Lincoln knew he would not be able to accomplish things without the help of his cabinet and staff. He shared credit for successes among his team.



If you have a weakness, choose someone who is strong in that area to counterbalance you.

Lincoln brought his political adversaries into his cabinet. He did it with Edwin M. Stanton, who publicly belittled him. Lincoln later made him secretary of war because he felt Stanton was the best person for the job.



Be visible during a crisis.

Whenever something bad happened during the Civil War, Lincoln went out amidst the troops. For business leaders, in tough times let yourself be seen.

“Setting an example is the most potent thing of all,” says Kearns Goodwin.



Master timing

Lincoln would announce changes in policies after gauging public sentiment. After you've absorbed the feeling of your staff, make the right decision about the time to announce a change or new way of doing business.

**Caricatures and text were created by
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