

Caring

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

What a great statement!

Leadership is an elusive quality. Some people think they are leaders, but they may not be, because I believe what defines a leader are the followers.

Think about leadership. If a reality show commentator said that I was "the best leader in the group," but you could see that no one was following me, how would you rate me as a leader? Would you call in and vote for me? Would I be a leader even if no one followed me?

Leadership is defined by followership. False leaders don't want to hear this, but true leaders already know it. Followers define quality leadership, but with followership comes responsibility. Can you be a follower? If you don't know how to follow, you probably can't lead.

Followers know that there is always someone in charge. Think about that impromptu neighborhood baseball game. A bunch of young people come together and try to get organized. First they pick captains (leaders), then the captains pick the teams (followers). If we as a group decide to do something and we begin to organize, we begin by choosing a leader.

Leaders naturally emerge from groups and we follow them because we've learned how to follow. We follow better if we know our leader cares.

Think about how this concept affects you as a peace officer, jailer, or telecommunicator. How is leadership also caring?

It is like when someone tells you to do something and never comes back to check on your work. I guess it wasn't so important in the first place. No one really cared whether I did it or not.

I told my boss that I wanted to go to college and get my associates degree. She told me there was a reimbursement program and that she would bring me the paperwork. That was four weeks ago, and I still don't have the paperwork. I guess they don't want me to go to college and get better.

I'd like to get better at my job, but I don't know how. I'd like to change for the better, but I don't know what to do instead, so I guess I'll continue to do what they say isn't working.

I just attended this training class on caring and how we were to be courteous, have a good attitude, earn respect, and be empathetic. I guess that was for me to learn how to treat our customers. I guess it wasn't for how my leaders should treat me.

Some things just make me wonder.