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Inspirational

Episode 21

*This episode of **INSPIRATIONAL** features a “True Story” from the life of **Dr. Madana Kumar, PhD** (Vice President and Global Head – Leadership Development at UST Global, Servant Leadership Evangelist, Thought Leader, Organisation Builder, Former Associate Director – Learning at IBM)*

“ Let me tell you my story of Career transition.

I have had a good career with regular promotions and recognitions. I was good at what I was doing and have been recognized for that. It was in late 1990’s that the question popped up in my mind “Am I chasing success for myself, or does this mean anything to others?”.

This question led me to reexamine my career goals and I became a student of Leadership and started teaching Leadership to others. This switch made me realize that I can be a value multiplier and not just a value adder in the corporate scene. When I made this career shift in 2004, I was managing a large team, was an upline manager, and was poised for further growth up the proverbial corporate ladder. My decision to shift career from an operational leadership position to a Leadership development facilitator position was frowned upon by many, since it involved giving up my “privileges” as a manager and moving down to an individual

*contributor role. But I have never regretted my decision. I always tell my audience; **I am being paid for what I love doing the most.***

There are two lessons from my career story.

- 1. Choose a career that you love doing and you will not regret it. There are several times, when we are tempted to choose a job or a career because of the money involved in it, the prestige involved in it etc. Those are temporary. If you take the courage of following a career path that you are sure to enjoy doing, you can rest assured that those will come chasing you rather than you go chasing for them. You will get rewarded, you will get compensated, and you will get the respect that you deserve. On the other hand, if you chose a career or a job just because of money or prestige, (and you hate what you do) you are most likely to fail all around.*
- 2. Do not chase success alone but pursue significance. Significance is when you add value to yourselves with the explicit purpose of adding value to others. When you chose a career or a job, ask this question, how will I be able to add value to others through this job/ career. If you don't have a convincing answer, you might have to rethink on the job/ career.*

Hope this helps you especially when you have to make choice in your career or life. ”

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