

# Choosing my purpose over work

## Articulation of the problem

This week has been seeing me question myself a fair bit. My team and I usually meet up on Wednesday during the scheduled class time and stay together until we are confident in our choices. However, this time I had made the conscious decision to leave my team early after only one hour. We weren't done yet and I knew me leaving them could possibly mean that this week we would be less effective. The reason why I left is, because I was running for the role of president in this charity I volunteer for. I argued that my team would be able to manage and this one off disappearance would be justified. However, when the results came out after the rollover, I saw we hadn't done great and I questioned my choice to leave them to their own device.

## Analysis

There are pros and cons to every decision and arguably I know I made the right call. Running for president was something I had been preparing for months. The purpose of the charity is something I identify with deeply and being able to play a vital role in its growth is something I strive for. Going beyond this isolated event, I guess what I really learnt is that I have to stay true to my values. This thought brought up recent experiences where I have had doubts about life choices I had made in regards to jobs and opportunities. While making these choices I had often disregarded to what I prescribe value in my life, focusing rather on what society deems appropriate. I know I want to have an impact on peoples lives and make this world a better place. Yet somehow, along the way I had pushed this aside. Making the call this week to follow my passion and sacrifice something for it might raise some eyebrows, but I am glad I did so.

## Theory

In the journal written by Christensen (2010), the question is raised as to how one is able to find purpose in their career and feel fulfilled. This question resonates strongly with me, as this is something that has been weighing on me quite intensely for a while now. Frederick Herzberg argues that the monetary remuneration is not the ideal we should be thriving for, but rather the intangible benefits, such as contributing to others. I don't want to say money holds no value, it is an important sanitary factor, I also don't want to agree with Herzberg to the extent where I deem his opinion as relevant to everybody. However, I strongly agree. The fact that other people in academia and business are able to openly discuss these topics is a comforting factor.

Christensen (2010) brings up the idea that one has to allocate their resources to the strategy one has chosen in their life. My conscious decision to leave class early is exactly that, an allocation of my time and energy to something I care more about. He also goes on to discuss the marginal cost of betraying your strategy for some momentary gain. I have been doing this a fair bit and seeing this argument makes me wonder what I could achieve if I would stay true to my goals.

## Action

This journal is about a topic that goes beyond a quick fix personal development. It has however given me the chance to reflect on the decision I made this week, which arguably is symptomatic of a much larger underlying issue. It will take time for me to prescribe more value to my goals and ambitions, but having this "win" on my side and seeing that putting my ambitions first does pay off. As a side not, I am incredibly thankful for my team that understood the situation I was in and pulled through without me. Their understanding made this choice a lot easier and heped me focus on my election, which in the end I won.

## References:

CHRISTENSEN, C. M. (2010). How Will You Measure Your Life? *Harvard Business Review*, 88(7/8), 46–51. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.auckland.ac.nz/login.aspx?direct=true&db=buh&AN=51600554&site=ehost-live&scope=site>