



The Lesson of the Lantern

This is the story of a young boy who was growing up on a farm. One night, his father asked him to go out to the barn to retrieve something.

“Oh, Daddy!” the boy said. “I can’t go! It’s too dark! I’m scared!”

The father realized that this was a teaching moment, so he took a lantern and guided the boy out onto the porch. “Hold up the lantern, son. How far can you see?”

The boy said, “I can see to the tree.”

The father told him, “Walk to the tree.”

Hesitantly the boy walked with the lantern to the tree.

“Now, hold the lantern up again. How far can you see now?”

“I can see the chicken pen,” the boy answered. So the boy walked to the chicken pen.

“Hold it up again, son. Now how far can you see?”

I can see to the barn, Father.”

And thus the young boy learned that he could walk to the barn in the dark by holding up the lantern.

You are the light. In many situations you are the lantern holder that lights the way for others to see the path. If we see each other as lantern holders then we will surely be able to help others on their own paths to leadership.

*Story attributed to Mark Craig, pastor of the Highland United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas.