

*Ten characteristics that make up a
Servant Leader:

- Listening & Understanding
- Acceptance & Empathy
- Healing
- Awareness
- Persuasion
- Building Community
- Conceptualization
- Foresight
- Stewardship
- Commitment

* Greenleaf (2002)



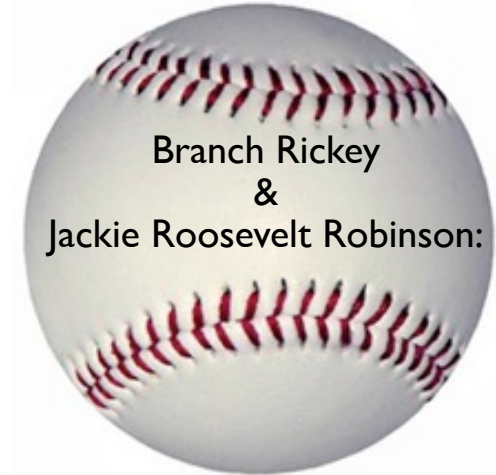
Jackie Robinson & Branch Rickey are great examples of true Servant Leaders.

References

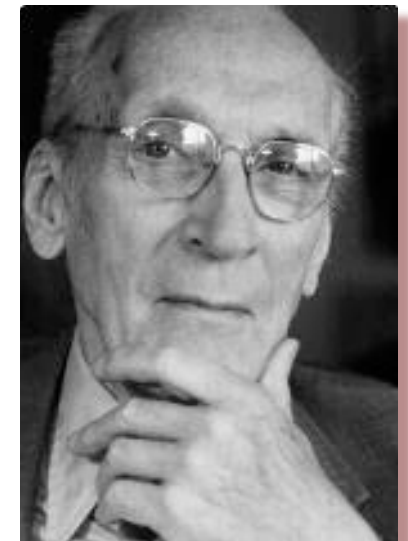
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Servant Leadership

The Servant Leadership
Dynamic between



How They Changed
Baseball and Our
Country



Robert K. Greenleaf

A b s t r a c t

The term "Servant Leadership" was coined by Robert Greenleaf back in 1970 in his essay entitled, "The Servant as Leader." Greenleaf stressed that if one wants to be a leader, one must be a servant first. He felt that being a leader starts with the desire to serve others. Then, one makes a conscious choice that takes the individual on a journey to aspire to lead. Greenleaf was reacting to the turbulent times of the late 1960s and early 1970s when he felt the deterioration of leadership in this country was at an all-time high.

Greenleaf (2002) envisioned ten characteristics that make up a Servant Leader. One can explore these concepts not just in an organization but in the historical context of the integration of baseball and the relationship between Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson. What it took for both of them to stamp out segregation (Jim Crow) in baseball and our country could only be accomplished through deep moral commitments and a need to serve others through leadership.

Rickey's quest for integration within Major League Baseball did not begin in 1945, when he signed the first modern African-American ball player to the Major Leagues, but began with a promise to himself in 1903. If the opportunity presented itself, he would try to help the African-Americans gain equality in this country (Lowenfish, 2009). However, the opportunity did not present itself until 1943, when he became the President and General Manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers and announced the signing of African-American ball player, Jackie Roosevelt

Robinson, on October 23, 1945. Jackie Robinson played one year in the minor leagues, and then on April 15, 1947, he played his first game at Ebbets Field for the Brooklyn Dodgers. This one act broke the color line in Major League Baseball, and has been commonly considered the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement (Glasser, 2003).

Greenleaf stated, "Behind every great achievement is a dreamer of great dreams. Much more than a dreamer is required to bring it to reality, but the dream must be there first" (Greenleaf, 2002, p. 30). Branch Rickey was a dreamer. His biographer Arthur Mann (1957) described Branch Rickey as "a visionary with pioneering ideas... a family man with high regard for the truth and a stubborn person who refused compromise" (Robinson, 1996, p. 36).



One of the great strengths of Servant Leadership is the potential for healing one's self and others (Greenleaf, 2002).



The Servant Leader strives to understand and empathize with others (Greenleaf, 2002).

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