



February 2011 – Wicked...

I saw the play Wicked last night at the Victoria Apollo theatre. I love musicals and it's the 17th longest-running Broadway show in history so I thought it must be worth seeing. It's the story of what happens before Dorothy shows up in the Wizard of Oz from the witches' point of view based on the novel by Gregory Maguire. It was beautifully staged, powerful lead singers, entertaining and full of inspiring lessons (hey, I'm a coach; I can see growth lessons everywhere, try me).

The story starts off with the birth of Elphaba, who will later become the Wicked Witch of the West in the Wizard of Oz. She is born different (aren't we all really? Hers just happens to be externally visible), she is born green. Her young life is spent as an outcast, being stared at and feeling ostracized. She meets Glinda, who later becomes The Good Witch, at university and they become deep friends after overcoming initial preconceived notions of each other – one as the misunderstood green outsider and the other, the blonde popular flighty bombshell.

The obvious growth lessons from the play are:

- Don't judge a book by its cover, get curious to find out more
- Things may not be what they appear so don't assume anything, or instead look for the differing perspective
- We all have gifts and we choose how to use them
- You reap what you sow
- Trust yourself, listen to your heart, have faith and courage to leap – “Defying Gravity” as Elphaba sings (lyrics by Stephen Schwartz)

A little spoiler alert – the finale, and morale of the story, is brilliantly sung by the two lead witches in which (pun intended) they lovingly and powerfully tell each other **“I've changed for the better because I know you”**.

Who do you know that has made your life better? Tell them, drop them an email, and acknowledge the gift they are in your life. For me there are so many people who make my life better across the world, and many on this distribution list so THANK YOU.

Whose life are YOU making better? I hope this list is equally exhaustive – it could be family, coworkers and friends. It could be people you don't know whose lives are better by your volunteering or charitable donation. What could you do to make their lives even better? Who else could you touch?

“I've changed for the better because I know you”....now that's Wicked!

Live your potential

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