

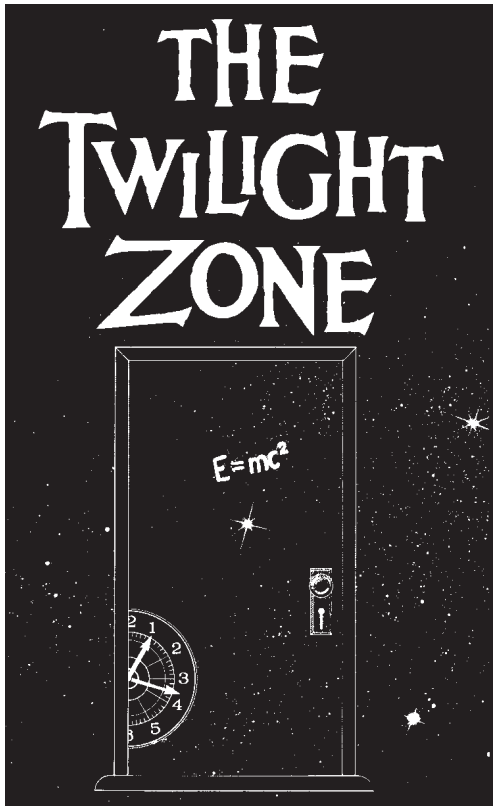
# A Leadership Lesson from...

## *The Little People* (3/30/62)

*“The time is the space age, the place is a barren landscape of a rock-walled canyon that lies millions of miles from the planet Earth. The cast of characters? You’ve met them: William Fletcher, commander of the spaceship; his co-pilot, Peter Craig. The other characters who inhabit this place you may never see, but they’re there, as these two gentlemen will soon find out. Because they’re about to partake in a little exploration into that gray, shaded area in space and time that’s known as the Twilight Zone.”*

After their ship is damaged by meteors, Fletcher and Craig set down in the canyon to effect repairs. While Fletcher works on the engines, Craig investigates the terrain-and discovers an Earth-type civilization populated by beings no larger than ants. Craig becomes a full-blown megalomaniac, terrorizing the little people by stamping on their city and proclaiming himself a god. When Fletcher informs him that the ship is fixed and that they can leave, Craig pulls a gun on him and orders him to depart alone; he intends to stay-and there’s no room for *two* gods. Fletcher blasts off. But then *another* ship lands. Two spacemen emerge, bigger than mountains, towering over Craig. Hysterically, he screams at them to go away. Drawn by the sound, one of the spacemen picks Craig up, inadvertently crushing him to death.

*“The case of navigator Peter Craig, a victim of a delusion. In this case, the dream dies a little harder than the man. A small exercise in space psychology that you can try on for size-in the Twilight Zone.”*



### **The Leadership Lesson:**

What is the difference between power, authority, and influence?

How does position come into play?

What experiences or stories do you have when a leader becomes a bully?

- Student
- Teacher/Coach/Advisor

How meaningful is the message?

# Film Critique

Main Points of the message

Interesting words  
(vocabulary)

Distractions

Relevance...so what?

# Leadership Lessons from the ***TWILIGHT ZONE***

## **“WALKING DISTANCE”**

October 30, 1959

*“Martin Sloan, age thirty-six. Occupation: vice-president, ad agency, in charge of media. This is not just a Sunday drive for Martin Sloan. He perhaps doesn’t know it at the time - but it’s an exodus. Somewhere up the road he’s looking for sanity. And somewhere up the road, he’ll find something else.”*

On a road trip, an advertising executive leaves his car to walk around the town he grew up in. He finds things exactly as they had been when he was a child! He soon discovers he has gone back in time. Later, his father realizes that this is his son of the future and tells him he must leave. “Only one summer to every customer” he says. Reluctantly, Martin returns to the present.

*“Martin Sloan, age thirty-six, vice president in charge of media. Successful in most things, but not in the one effort that all men try at some time in their lives - trying to go home again. And also like all men perhaps there’ll be an occasion - maybe a summer night sometime - when he’ll look up from what he’s doing and listen to the distant music of a calliope, and hear the voices and the laughter of his past. And perhaps across his mind there’ll flit a little errant wish, that a man might not have to become old, never outgrow the parks and the merry-go-rounds of his youth. And he’ll smile then too because he’ll know it is just an errant wish, some wisp of memory not too important really, some laughing ghosts that cross a man’s mind - that are a part of the Twilight Zone.”*

Leadership Lesson: Do you know alumni who won’t let go of their successful school experience? Should we get one chance at High School and when we are done, let the next class have their experiences. *(Great for seniors in the spring)*

## **“THE MIGHTY CASEY”**

June 17, 1960

*“What you’re looking at is a ghost, once alive but now deceased. Once upon a time, it was a baseball stadium that housed a major-league ball club known as the Hoboken Zephyrs. Now it houses nothing but memories and a wind that stirs in the high grass of what was once an outfield, a wind that sometimes bears a faint, ghostly resemblance to the roar of a crowd that once sat here. We’re back in time now, when the Hoboken Zephyrs were still a part of the National League and this mausoleum of memories was an honest-to-Pete stadium. But since this is strictly a story of make-believe, it has to start this way: Once upon a time in Hoboken, New Jersey, it was tryout day. And though he’s not yet on the field, you’re about to meet a most unusual fella, a left-handed pitcher named Casey.”*

A human looking robot becomes the star pitcher of a losing baseball team. Soon, the team is unbeatable. The commissioner rules that because he has no heart, he is not a man, and he cannot be on the team. His inventor gives him that heart, but now he has too much compassion to strike out his opponents. The team loses the pennant race.

*“Once upon a time there was a major league baseball team called the Hoboken Zephyrs who, during the last year of their existence, wound up in last place and shortly thereafter wound up in oblivion. There’s a rumor, unsubstantiated of course, that a manager named McGarry took them to the West Coast and wound up with several pennants and a couple of world’s*

*championships. This team had a pitching staff that made history. Of course, none of them smiled very much, but it happens to be a fact that they pitched like nothing human. And if you're interested as to where these gentlemen came from, you might check under "B" for baseball - in the Twilight Zone."*

Leadership Lesson: Leadership is a blend of Knowledge, Compassion and the Courage to Take Action. *L. Frank Baum called it Brains, Heart and Courage.* How can we keep those three components in balance?

## **THE MONSTERS ARE DUE ON MAPLE STREET**

March 4, 1960

*"Maple Street, U.S.A. Late summer. A tree-lined little road of front porch gliders, barbecues, the laughter of children, and the bell of an ice-cream vendor. At the sound of the roar and the flash of light, it will be precisely 6:43 p.m. on Maple Street.... This is Maple Street on a late Saturday afternoon, in the last calm and reflective moment - before the monsters came."*

A meteor (or something) streaks through the sky. Soon Maple Street experiences a total power failure. Then other strange things happen. Before long, madness prevails. Neighbors accuse each other of being involved...being an alien! Rioting breaks out in the street. Without knowing for sure what caused the problem, neighbor turns against neighbor.

*"The tools of conquest do not necessarily come with bombs and explosions and fallout. There are weapons that are simply thoughts, attitudes, prejudices - to be found only in the minds of men. For the record, prejudices can kill and suspicion can destroy, and a thoughtless, frightened search for a scapegoat has a fallout all its own - for the children, and the children yet unborn. And the pity of it is that these things cannot be confined to the Twilight Zone."*

Leadership Lesson: What is the anatomy of a rumor?, Do we easily take action against people we don't really know or, perhaps, don't like? What is the basis for a mob mentality?

## **"THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER"**

November 11, 1960

*"Suspended in time and space for a moment, your introduction to Miss Janet Tyler, who lives in a very private world of darkness, a universe whose dimensions are the size, thickness, length of a swath of bandages that cover her face. In a moment we'll go back into this room and also in a moment we'll look under those bandages, keeping in mind, of course, that we're not to be surprised by what we see, because this isn't just a hospital, and patient 307 is not just a woman., This happens to be the Twilight Zone, and Miss Tyler, with you, is about to enter it."*

Janet is lying in a darkened hospital room awaiting the results of her most recent operation. This is her final try to alter her looks to become beautiful. If this doesn't work, she will be sent to a colony with the other repulsive people of her time. Soon, we discover the surgery did not work and she is destined to now have the long snout and pig looks of this civilization. She meets another and they are sent to an outcast village in the north.

*"Now the questions that come to mind. Where is this place and when is it, what kind of world where ugliness is the norm and beauty the deviation from that norm? The answer is, it doesn't make any difference. Because the old saying happens to be true. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, in this year or a hundred years hence, on this planet or wherever there is human*

*life, perhaps out among the stars. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Lesson to be learned...in the Twilight Zone.*"

Leadership Lesson: How (and why) do we treat people by the way they look and conform to our standards? What are other ways to judge people?

### **“THE PRIME MOVER”**

March 24, 1961

*“Portrait of a man who thinks and thereby gets things done. Mr. Jimbo Cobb might be called a prime mover, a talent which has to be seen to be believed. In just a moment, he’ll show his friend and you how he keeps both feet on the ground - and his head in the Twilight Zone.”*

Ace Larsen uses Jimbo’s friendship (and his psychokinetic powers) to make things happen. Particularly winning at gambling. Jimbo tries to warn him that there’s a problem, but Ace doesn't listen and loses it all. Ace has his balance in life restored, laughs it off and goes on with life. Later we see that Jimbo never lost his power.

*“Some people possess talent, others are possessed by it. When that happens, a talent becomes a curse. Jimbo Cobb knew, right from the beginning. But before Ace Larsen learned that simple truth, he had to take a short trip through the Twilight Zone.”*

Leadership Lesson: What causes us to lose our sense of balance in life (socially, emotionally, intellectually, or physically)? Can we be so possessed by our talents or successes that we lose our sense of what is legal, balanced and ethical?

### **“THE MIND AND THE MATTER”**

May 21, 1961

*“A brief, if frenetic, introduction to Mr. Archibald Beechcroft, a child of the twentieth century, a product of the population explosion, and one of the inheritors of the legacy of progress...Mr. Beechcroft again. This time act two of his daily battle for survival. And in just a moment, our hero will begin his personal one-man rebellion against the mechanics of his age, and to do so he will enlist certain aids available only in the Twilight Zone.”*

The lead character hates people. He reads a book on the power of the mind and decides to will people away. Soon he finds that he is lonely. So, he decides to repopulate the world with people just exactly like him. He soon concludes that a “lot of me is just as bad as a lot of them.” He finally concedes and becomes a little more forgiving of other's faults.

*“Mr. Archibald Beechcroft, a child of the twentieth century, who has found out through trial and error - and mostly error - that with all its faults it may well be that this is the best of all possible worlds. People notwithstanding, it has much to offer. Tonight’s case in point...in the Twilight Zone.”*

Leadership Lesson: How do we accept others? Do we most dislike in others what we most dislike in ourselves?

## **“TWO”**

September 15, 1961

*“This is a jungle, a monument built by nature honoring disuse, commemorating a few years of nature being left to its own devices. But it’s another kind of jungle, the kind that comes in the aftermath of man’s battles against himself. Hardly an important battle, not a Gettysburg or a Marne or an Iwo Jima. More like one insignificant corner patch in the crazy quilt of combat. But it was enough to end the existence of this little city. It’s been five years since a human being walked these streets. This is the first day of the sixth year - as man used to measure time. The time: perhaps a hundred years from now. Or sooner. Or perhaps it’s already happened two million years ago. The Place? The signposts are in English so that we may read them more easily, but the place - is the Twilight Zone.”*

A woman, wearing the tattered uniform of an invading army, meets an enemy soldier. At first, the two distract each other. Eventually, they become more friendly, but not without some digressions. Finally, they both don the clothes of civilians and set off, side by side.

*“This has been a love story, about two lonely people who found each other...in the Twilight Zone.”*

Leadership Lesson: What is the basis for our distrust and dislike of others? What uniforms do we see on others that give us clues them? Does someone’s uniform always define them?

## **“THE SHELTER”**

September 29, 1961

*“What you are about to watch is a nightmare. It is not meant to be prophetic, it need not happen, it’s the fervent and urgent prayer of all men of good will that it never shall happen. But in this place, in this moment, it does happen. This is the Twilight Zone.”*

The radio announces the arrival of a UFO and recommends that everyone should get to their bomb shelters. Doc Stockton’s neighbors are unprepared and beg to let them in. He refuses to help. In their anger, they break in to the shelter. Just then, the radio announces that the UFO’s were only harmless satellites. The ashamed neighbors apologize. Doc Stockton knows that they are all permanently affected by this experience.

*“No moral, no message, no prophetic tract, just a simple statement of fact: for civilization to survive, the human race has to remain civilized. Tonight’s very small exercise in logic from the Twilight Zone.”*

Leadership Lesson: How do we help people in need? Should we help others at our own expense? What if we don’t help those really in need? How do we know if we need something, or just want it?

## **“KICK THE CAN”**

February 9, 1962

*“Sunnyvale Rest, a home for the aged - a dying place - and a common children’s game called kick-the-can that will shortly become a refuge for a man who knows he will die in this world if he doesn’t escape into...the Twilight Zone.”*

Charles tries to convince the others in the rest home that the secret to youth is acting young. Late one night, Charles wakes the others and invites them to join him in a game of kick the can out in the yard. Most agree, and go outside. Ben refuses, but soon discovers that the magic has worked and they all have turned into children. But it is too late for Ben, they leave him behind.

*“Sunnyvale Rest, a dying place for ancient people who have forgotten the fragile magic of youth. A dying place for those who have forgotten that childhood, maturity and old age are curiously intertwined and not separate. A dying place for those who have grown too stiff in their thinking to visit the Twilight Zone.”*

Leadership Lesson: When do we know we are too old for something? How do we lose our excitement for things we once loved? How are we affected by other’s opinions?

### **“THE GIFT”**

April 27, 1962

*“The place is Mexico, just across the Texas border, a mountain village held back in time by its remoteness and suddenly intruded upon by the twentieth century. And this is Pedro, nine years old, a lonely, rootless little boy, who will soon make the acquaintance of a traveler from a distant place. We are at present forty miles from the Rio Grande, but any place and all places can be - the Twilight Zone.”*

An alien is injured by a crash landing in Mexico. He gives a *gift* to a local boy named Pedro. The alien tells Pedro to show the gift. The alien is killed and the gift is taken from the boy and burned in a fire. A doctor pulls the remains of the gift from the fire to discover it was the formula for the cure to cancer, only the crucial part of the message has burned away.

*“Madeiro, Mexico, the present. The subject: fear. The cure: a little more faith. An Rx off a shelf - in the Twilight Zone.”*

Leadership Lesson: What gifts do we fail to recognize? How can we recognize the bearers of real gifts? What gifts have we tried to give, but were rejected? What gifts do we possess?

### **“THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD”**

June 1, 1962

*“Professor Ellis Fowler, a gentle, bookish guide to the young, who is about to discover that life still has certain surprises, and that the campus of the Rock Springs School for Boys lies on a direct path to another institution, commonly referred to as the Twilight Zone.”*

A headmaster is told that he is being forced to retire after fifty-one years of teaching. He decides to commit suicide. Suddenly, he hears a school bell and enters a classroom and sees the ghosts of former students. They convince him that their acts of bravery were are direct result of his lessons. The teacher is now content to retire as he knows he made a difference in the world.

*“Professor Ellis Fowler, teacher, who discovered rather belatedly something of his own value. A very small scholastic lesson, from the campus of the Twilight Zone.”*

Leadership Lesson: What legacy have you left for this school? What lessons have you learned from a special teacher that will make a difference in your life? (*Great for seniors in the spring*)

## “THE FEAR”

May 29, 1964

*“The major ingredient of any recipe for fear is the unknown, And here are two characters about to partake of the meal: Miss Charlotte Scott, a fashion editor, and Mr. Robert Franklin, a state trooper. And the third member of the party: the unknown, that has just landed a few hundred yards away. This person or thing is soon to be met. This is a mountain cabin, but it is also a clearing in the shadows known as the Twilight Zone.”*

A State Trooper visits the cabin of Miss Scott to investigate her reports of strange lights in the sky. Soon, after a loud noise, the Trooper’s car rolls away, the telephone line goes dead, and his radio is broken. The next morning, they discover a large footprint; in running away they find a large one- eyed space- suited creature. The officer fires his gun at the creature, and discovers it to be a balloon. We then sees two very small aliens run off. Their efforts to intimidate the larger humans have failed.

*“Fear, of course, is extremely relative. It depends on who can look down and who must look up. It depends on other vagaries, like the time, the mood, the darkness. But it’s been said before, with great validity, that the worst thing there is to fear is fear itself. Tonight’s tale of terror and tiny people on the Twilight Zone.”*

Leadership Lesson: In what ways are we intimidated (and by whom)? How are we easily intimidated: Emotionally? Physically? Socially? Intellectually?

Resource: **The Twilight Zone Companion**, Marc Scott Zicree. 1989: 2nd edition. Silman~ James Press, Hollywood, CA.