Ponder this quotation: “Be thankful for problems. If they weren’t so hard, someone with less ability might have your job!”

Although this is attributed to an unknown person, it is worth pulling apart and thinking about. “Be thankful for problems.” Did you ever think about being thankful for problems? This is a leadership attribute. Just when you think you have everything under control, another problem crops up. Solving problems is critical to produce long-term results. Quite honestly, 90 percent of the problems middle managers face are ambiguous.

The second sentence is equally thought-provoking: “If they weren’t so hard, someone with less ability might have your job” This suggests that you want to be challenged to prove that you are worthy of the job. If you can solve the hard problems, it is likely that your leadership team will value your willingness and drive to solve problems.

Write this quotation on an index card. Place it in your pocket and carry it around with you for a week. Take it out when the next problem occurs and remind yourself about how lucky you are that you have a problem that you are able to solve and to learn from.