

# The Lincoln Gardner Analogy

Whether you're a store clerk or janitor, do it with class, as it's not where you've been that matters the most, but where you end up is what can give your life story extraordinary prestige. Remember, Abe Lincoln was a store clerk too—a man who became the 16th President of the United States of America and signed into law an astonishing executive order that abolished slavery in America. A man during his time, often touted to have been one of the best autodidact-attorneys in the United States, where he practiced law in the great State of Illinois—but moreover, a noble man whose face now adorns America's five-dollar bill. Now, can you imagine President Lincoln's path as he progressed from being an ordinary store clerk to walking the historic halls of America's White House? Needless to say, it must have been a very humbling experience for the young, middle-aged Lincoln.

By contrast, Chris Gardner was a troubled man whose life's journey left him homeless and destitute. As it concerned his interest in being a certified stockbroker and subsequently mastering the trade, he himself was quite the autodidact. Likewise, Gardner, although he did not acquire a higher education, managed to obtain valuable knowledge following a successful four-year stint in the United States Navy. Through his work and good character, Chris went on to become a well-respected man both in his community and internationally. More notably, he'd eventually become a multi-millionaire, a brilliant orator, a philanthropist, and a board member of the National Education Foundation.

These two men never allowed their pasts to define their futures, and as a result, they became beacons of light for many of us to follow and admire today.

Author: John C. Sudds

Original: 2/20/2018

Revised: 7/2/2023