

Midterm Exam

Jonathan Olusanya

Beulah Heights University

**Q. 1 What is the biggest challenge you have encountered as a leader (in your church or work organization) and what made it difficult.**

Having the mindset that challenges of life are inevitable, made me to face this challenge headlong. According to George (2009, p.42), crisis often hit when you least expect them, so leaders need to be prepared, and build resilience before the challenge before it happens. Nobody is immune from the challenges of life, no matter how highly placed one may be in Ministry and market place. Few months ago, a woman, in my church, publicly humiliated me while I was on my knees about to administer the Holy Communion. It was such a huge drama in the presence of the entire members of the church. I was so much lost in thought because this was the highest embarrassment have ever face in the cause of my ministry career. I was lied upon, seriously humiliated, wrongly accused and treated with disdain in the presence of the congregation. While the drama was ongoing, I remained calm and matured, asking for the intervention of the Holy Spirit to take absolute control of this ugly situation. She became a tool in the hands of Satan to disrupt the service for that faithful day. I guessed she was badly torched and uncomfortable with the theme of my sermon "Like on the day of Noah". She probably usurped her office and status as the wife of the senior pastor to engage and disrupt the service under the guise that she wanted to pass a message to the members with impunity. This was what made the challenge of that day difficult for me to understand. One would think, such a barbaric behavior should not come from a leader and the wife of the Assembly pastor. She probably ranked herself to be superior to me as Associate pastor to act in such an ugly manner. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake (Mathew 5:11). According to George (2009, p.39), one of the hardest things for leaders is being vulnerable with other people. It is also one of the most powerful.

**Q. 2 What did you do well in the face of this challenge?**

It is impossible to overestimate the turbulence and chaos that leaders now confront every day (Dotlich, Cairo, & Rhinesmith, 2009, p.15). According to Dotlich, Cairo, & Rhinesmith (2009), if leaders are to be honest, they'll admit that they don't always know what to do when challenges hit unprepared. The truth of the matter was that I was caught unawares by the behavior of this woman minister. Her behavior withstanding, my immediate reaction was to give myself to fervent prayer for the Holy Spirit to come and take perfect control. Meditation offers a sense of harmony and well-being that is essential for coping with the rigors of high-pressure situations (George, 2009, p.43). Thereafter, I allowed the word of the Lord to comfort me. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Perhaps, the words of Gerkin (1997, p.80), reflection on the actions and words of Jesus as he related to people at all levels of social life gives us the model since quality non for pastoral relationships with those immediately within our care and those strangers we meet along the way. It was this word that also helped me to navigate this challenge without erring. Storytelling in Pastoral Care often searches for ways to connect with God, humanity, and creation amidst pain, suffering, and everyday trials of life (Doehring, 2015, p. xiv).

**Q. 3 What did you learn about yourself from this experience?**

Very important lesson for me is to be Christ like in whatever situation. Christ Jesus as my role model went through challenges of life and He overcome. Jesus displays all the attributes of God's shepherding heart (John 10:11 KJV). Hence, Christian leaders must emulate Christ in their relationship with others. Also, according to George (2009, p.3), under pressure, some leaders not only pass the test, but their leadership emerges even stronger. Admitting weaknesses

and owing up to mistakes have counterintuitive benefits. When you are honest, people are more likely to forgive you any weaknesses and mistakes. You are also able to make stronger connection with others. That ultimately gives you an ability to persuade and influence people, which in turn strengthens your ability to lead (Georg, 2009, p.40). In order to perform at once best throughout the challenge, George, (2009) suggested, that leaders need to perform at high level of resilience: a combination of hardness, toughness, and buoyancy of spirit. Furthermore, I lean to be effective in getting through the challenge by getting the world off my shoulders and share my experience and burdens with my colleagues in ministry. Hence, networking with others and building sustainable relationships are source of strength. Like the best captains trying to keep their ships afloat during fiery storms, leaders must depend on what they know to be true (Dotlich, Cairo, & Rhinesmith, 2009, p.7).

**Q. 4 Which one of Bill George's "7 Lessons" has impacted you the most? Why?**

There is no doubting the fact that all the 7 Lessons are crucial for 21<sup>st</sup> Century leaders to succeed in Ministry and market place. However, the one that influenced me the most, is Lesson 6: **You're in the spotlight: Follow True North.** According to George (2009), "In a crisis, everyone watches what you do. Whether you like it or not, you are in the spotlight both inside and outside the company." The Scripture said of us as believers that we are the light of the world (Mathew 5:14-16). The people around us, no longer want to read the scripture but want to read our exemplary lifestyle. Any attempt to live a life outside what we preach is hypocritical. A true and regenerated believer must remain focused on the True North. As 21<sup>st</sup> Century leaders, we must learn to be open, straight-forward, and transparent. These days the intensity of the spotlight is so great that leaders cannot get away with dissembling or being intentionally misleading (George, 2009). Hence, the scripture warned us to beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's

clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves (Mathew 7:15 KJV). It is therefore necessary for leaders to confront the questions of character at both the individual and ministry levels. There is nothing hidden under the sun. According to Anagnos & Mitroff, (2001), the explosive growth of information technologies and their intrusion into every nooks and cranny of our lives, in effect, there are no secrets anymore. Believers must be mindful that everyone will give account of their stewardship. A day of accountability is near where everyone will stand before God Almighty to answer all that we have done whether good or bad.

## References

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