

The book, *Designing Your Life: How to build a well-lived, Joyful Life*, explores categorical aspects of life that is important to people and challenges to reflect how healthy one is and how each life categories intertwines with each other. I think it helped me to reflect what areas in ministry I feel stuck, and why I feel that way, and force me to think what my ministry dream job may look alike and how to plan or design my daily activities that will help me get there.

Mark Sayers' *The road trip that changed my life* tackles on issues regarding contemporary Christian culture that has been heavily influenced and even plagued by American world view that centers on "self" My takeaway is that Christianity is about holiness that comes with conforming to the minds of Jesus and his way, for his way is superior. However, today, many of us desire to experience God to fulfill our own selfish needs without paying for the costs of being Jesus disciples.

The biggest take away from Douglas and Patton's book is simply this: a spiritual leader must learn how to ask the difficult questions and have a difficult conversation. I recognize, for me in my own ministry contexts, I avoid asking hard questions, especially when it involves some confrontations. I think identifying and understanding the feelings when faced with conflicts and expressing it will be helpful in my ministry context.

Creative Minority: I think it is true what we Christians have to recover our credibility in the world. We preach the love thy neighbor yet so many of us are too busy judging, we talk about holiness often without any substances of Christ living in us in our own lives. Simply put, in my own ministry context, there has to be an effort to bring about mercy and justice, the redemptive work of God, that is visible and tangible. I think it is vital in my own context to continue to break the comfort zone and continue to reflect to think how I can relate and proclaim the gospel to those that are different than me.

The biggest take away from *Soul Care* by Rob Reimer is that we need to go before the Lord and bring it all there. What I mean is that, we need to be able to be honest before the Lord and seek him first as we seek healing in our lives. ONLY GOD HEALS THE SOUL. What I learn is that I need to take care of my soul daily and make it a priority so that I operate and minister to people out of grace and not out of obligations per se.

Having or setting boundaries does not mean that I am a selfish Christian is the biggest take away from reading Townsend's book. That it good to sacrifice yourself for the sake of others, but I need boundaries to make that choice of sacrifice. In my ministerial context, I will apply to not over commit myself which I do people I have people pleasing nature. Just recognizing the actual time I can give will be helpful and healthy.

From 7 Principles on making marriage work, my biggest take away is how important it is to recognize the partnership, friendship, and shared responsibility. As a married ministry pastor I find the exercises in this book very helpful and will like to provide workshops on "building your love maps"

The biggest take away from reading *How people change* is that despite human tendency to not wanting to change, there is hope because of Jesus Christ' continue work in our lives. So, I find joy and pray rather than being in despair that people won't or don't change. I want to apply my love for God to grow more "abounds in love and discernment and it will lead to more acts of love for others.