



School Of Ministry

Lesson 40

Concluding Notes on Overview of the Ministry (2)

Culled from Valedictory Message to Class of 2010 by Dr Mikel Brown, CJC, El-Paso, Texas.

3) **Learn the power of networking.**

First of all do not network outside of your leadership; this is vital. Your leader has to protect what you hear because what you hear, you have a tendency to bring it in here so if he is unfamiliar with your networks, he cannot protect you. It is also important so that you don't get deceived into taking your dollars that were earmarked to build this work, to build someone else's work in other places. You don't dare take your thousand dollar seed to build someone else's church when you are here. There are many ministries that are very interested in your money and have no concern for you. You do not give a first fruit to another ministry. I remember in the 80's Oral Roberts made the mistake and said you can send your tithe to him and he did get it from everyone of us; he had to repent because the funds of tithe were never earmarked for a university it was always for the church and the store house is always the church. Another thing is that God never uses the tithe to build the church; he uses the offerings. So networking is important so that you are not getting someone whose whole plan is to deceive you and pull you out of the environment you are in or your dollars so that you can be ineffective here and effective somewhere else where you are getting no food. Your food comes right here at ALIC. **Three R's of networking:** 1) **Relationships** (word of mouth is about relationships, marketing.) Always talk up what God is doing at your church; don't boast about someone else's church; it is a poor dog that will not wag its tail. Talk about your church to people of all races. If you sell them on the concept that you are really excited about what God is doing and how your Pastor ministers, they will probably be thinking, *I should be talking about my church and Pastor that way too.* Also never let anyone put a negative word on your Pastors. I can tell you now I have some people that will go to blows if you talk about me. I also have those that will talk about me.

II) **Reliability.** III) **Referrals:** You have to know how to get other people involved. Remember Jesus is not concerned about numbers he is concerned about souls. He is concerned about how filled his house is. He tells us to go to the highways and hedges and compel them that they will come into his house so that his house might be filled; God doesn't want an empty house and when the good folk that have money don't want to come he says go to the next group of people, to the outskirts, to the lower parts of the earth, go to the undesirable areas of your community, just get somebody in my house; take that attitude.

- 4) **Develop a persistent attitude.** Watch your body language; learn to avoid the roles that give you a clear path to giving up in surrender and giving in; push yourself when you feel that you don't want to go on; when you feel that your pastor was a little too hard, he pointed you out. I had a Pastor that was very instrumental in helping and establishing me. I was a young minister and I remember he was high on education; that was the key. He had decided to license me after my course but I was so cocky; he asked, "Are you ready for ordination?" I was about 19-20 years old and I responded that I was ready, he said, "I am going to license you, you have been with me for some years now." I replied, "Pastor, give me the license I will type it up." He said no that he will get someone else to type it, I insisted, adding that I was a clerk in the army. So he handed me the license and I messed it up. I said, "Pastor, do you have another one of those licenses, I messed up. He said o no, let that serve as a reminder; I still have that license till this day. After that experience, he will come often and ask, "Do you think you are ready for ordination?" It got to the point I said, "No, only you know. God has given you authority over my life; you know Pastor, you know." I had changed over the years especially after being embarrassed enough times in front of people. See I am from Chicago and didn't have a father while growing up so I still had a lot of independent rebellion in me; once I started discussing the scriptures and said, "When you go back to the book of Acts, you see, Pastor the bible says, the race is not given to the swift nor the battle to the strong but he that endureth until the end." Believe me I was like that. The Pastor said sit down and find it; I said, "Wait Pastor I'm not done," he said, "Sit down and find it." I didn't look at the people because I was already embarrassed; and I finally found one half of the verse in Ecclesiastes the other half elsewhere. He said, "Did you find it?" I could not respond. He said, "You messed it up because you are repeating what you heard instead of finding it for yourself." I learnt. Then on I always made sure I knew what I was talking about so even with that I preached with the intent of making sure a child as well as the most educated person can understand me. I could use big words, I matriculated from the University of

Maryland, I have done all these things, I have done business, I am still in corporate world but it does not impress me because it doesn't impress God. What would it matter if I won the whole world and God is unimpressed and dissatisfied with my character? So persistence in ministry, studying, staying the course, is key.

- 5) Define your reasons for wanting to have a successful ministry.** Every single one of you, every Pastor here can tell you that everyone wants to be successful but you have to define what success is for you. You cannot be so superficial as to think that success depends on how much money you get or how many people attend the congregation, or the number of people in your bible study. One day God spoke to me and he told me to start a prayer meeting. This was before I was pastoring, I was stationed in Germany in 1977 and the Lord said, "Start a prayer meeting," I told all the people I knew to come with me to pray at such a time; then I asked God, "Why aren't they coming to pray with me" and God responded, "I never asked you to get an entourage" when God calls you he doesn't call you to go with a group of people. That is where our comfort zone lies, anytime God calls us to do something we always want to take people along with us because we think our chances of succeeding are better with everyone else but in reality your chances of success are better by yourself. If God told you to come for the next 30days and meet him here at 5am to pray; don't ask for an entourage. It is not your assignment to get others. Every one of you has a different degree of hunger and desire. Some folks don't want to eat, sometimes your children can see what you are preparing and don't want it. The problem is they don't know what they want and we are sometimes like that. We stand with the refrigerator wide open all that cold and electricity coming out and we say there is nothing to eat when the refrigerator is actually full; it is just there is nothing prepared that we want to eat. There are sometimes you just don't know what your taste buds are calling for; so you always have to say, "I need to develop a hunger for the Word of God." Not the kind of desire that second guesses God, or puts him on the spot. People, know why you want to become successful. I once told a man, listen it is sad when I want more for you than you want for yourself. I said I don't need you to succeed but you need me; and if you don't develop a hunger for God, for discovering why it is you want to be successful then throw in the towel now. Let it be for God and God alone. Someone might say, "Well God knows how successful we are going to be." Let me tell you what he knows, he knows what he has put in your hands. Your success depends on your development, how much you adhere to in terms of your development determines how far you go. There is no luck in ministry; you will look at someone who has 10,000 people and you wish you had that; you

can't handle 10,000 people let alone the 5,000 you've got. Remember this; you have to be a blessing it's commanded that you become one.

Conclusion

You are a servant, love to serve. Don't get offended when people do not eat. Don't feel offended when they do not act right or when they say the food is messed up; just keep serving and find different ways of fascinating them, to help their salvation become more lubricated, just say things in a way that entices them. Also remember that you are a part of the ministry increasing financially. There is nothing worse in the body of Christ than when you see ministers that are not full time refusing to share in the burden of the finances of that ministry so that the church and Pastor can be successful.

There is a plant in a certain Island that grows 5 shoots at one time and the middle shoot sprouts up more than the others and as it is growing the other 4 die to become nutrition for the one that lives. We all die so that Christ's purpose can live. When you are in Ministry, it is not your vision, it is the vision God gave your Pastor, it is an absolute privilege to be part of a vision that God gives your Pastor; that he wrote your name into the chapter and success of that particular ministry. Always be a perfect example of someone who trusts God.

The last thing is realize your dream; do you have one? Everybody should have a dream; one dream. I often say that the fastest way to kill a man with a dream is to give him another one. Once his attention is divided...you cannot chase 2 rabbits and catch one; it will not work. You have to have a dream. At first that dream should be: I want my Pastor to succeed; his success depends on yours. His ability to touch God and have God pour into him means that God will pour that much more into you.

So to this graduating class, I commend you. I thank God for you. This is the beginning of what God is about to do for you and rest assured that it is just a seed because you are still being developed. You may still be in the ground but you are being developed; you may be invisible now but you are being developed. Don't be concerned about not getting such and such and not being recognized. The man of God and His wife are real; stay focused and serve with them. My former Pastor came to my church about 2 years ago, he said, "How do you get these men to serve" Then I thought, *I just treat everyone like kings*. What made Solomon so great was when the queen of Sheba saw the servants and how well they were taken care of, she was fascinated, she said, "not only do your servants look good but you look twice as good!" (Paraphrased) God bless you!