

Affordable Book Report Sample



4-MAT BOOK REVIEW

Abstract

The Making of a Leader by Robert Clinton is an informative book packed with important illustrations, examples, principles and charts to guide individuals into becoming godly leaders. In the book, Clinton helps leaders understand the process of leadership and the way veteran leaders can invest in other emerging leaders.

Clinton guides leaders into becoming godly. In his book, he discusses what it means to be a leader and what it takes for someone to be the leader God wants them to be. The Making of a Leader is about spiritual dynamics. Clinton states that effective spiritual ministry flows out of being, and God takes concern in our being. Further, he states that God is forming in our being. The processes and patterns God uses to shape us are worthwhile for the study of leadership. Those who study and use the knowledge they gain will be will be better prepared leaders as compared to those who ignore the knowledge they acquire. The process of becoming a leader entails all of the processes of life and not just the formal training. The book clearly shows that good leaders are shaped by experience and training. God has His own unique ways of developing leaders. If you are aware of these ways, you are on the right truck to responding to God's ways of developing you to an effective leader. Knowing that God will be developing you for a lifetime will help one to know that they are supposed to be patient throughout the ride. The Making of a Leader gives the leadership insights that will help them persevere. Clinton argues that leadership development theory starts with the idea of articulating a time-line.

Clinton has defined leadership as a self-motivated process in which a man or woman with a God-given capability influences a group of God's people toward His purposes in their lives.

Evidently, the book is a good read for leaders who:

- Are wondering the purpose of God in their lives
- Are in the discovery stage of the ministry opportunities
- Need to know how to choose and nurture young leaders
- Are facing major decisions
- Need challenge from God
- Want to know how God develops leaders
- Wonder whether the situation they are facing is normal

As pointed out by Clinton, God aims at transforming the characters of leaders in order to conform them to his ministry. It also gives them spiritual authority to lead. Their capacity of influencing their followers is amplified through the development of spiritual gifts. Clinton also puts forth that emerging leaders are faced by the issue of developing character that God desire. In view of this, he has provided various checks to shape leader's characters.

In a nutshell, I think all experienced and emerging leaders should be a part of the book's readership, as it will benefit them immensely. Therefore, those who have God's calling to leadership, or are already entrusted with leadership role, should take into consideration Clinton's wisdom.

Concrete Response

Reading The Making of a Leader helped me remember a friend who was facing a difficult bout and almost gave up. My friend Daniel was suffering from cancer. The treatment he was getting and its side effects were brutal. I remember at one time I encouraged him to fight without despair and he said "my friend, I

have given up, as there is no hope for me.” Luckily, he met a man who some time back had suffered the same illness and had undergone the same treatment; today he is a happy cancer survivor. This man was of an immense support to my friend Daniel until he was able to fight the cancer to the end. Apparently, knowing where one is, is an important foundation for moving forward. Daniel knew where he was and his guide served as a map of where he was going. Daniel’s guide helped him understand that he was undergoing a normal situation that was necessary to fight cancer. Secondly, he was given a living hope that one day he will be cancer free if he endures the treatment to the end without giving up.

Similarly, Clinton helps leaders understand that for them to become mature leaders, they have to undergo all the six steps of development, despite the challenges. Clinton uses the examples of Prophets Daniel and Jeremiah, Apostles Barnabas and Paul, Watchman Nee, Warren Wiersbe, among others, to show how facing challenges makes one become healthy and mature in whatever situation.

Reflection

Clinton has offered a comprehensive framework which can be used by leaders to assess their lives. The stages of leadership provided in the book are vital in helping leaders know what they have gone through effectively or ineffectively. In spite of this, there are various things in the book, which have bothered me most. To start with, the framework used by the author does not appear to have been developed from biblical perspective. Clinton seems to have done an analysis that is backed by historical, as well as biblical stories. When one compares what the Bible articulates concerning leadership’s stages, it is clear that Clinton’s stages would not appear as evidently as articulated. Secondly, the author has merely located his principles on a linear grid. However, reality indicates that leadership principles take place on a multifaceted setting of associations, and in a milieu of circumstances and people. Lastly, Clinton has used a world of terminologies, which can be said to be ubiquitous and intense. They make the book lack a sense of organization.

In explaining the six stages of leadership development, Clinton has used a wide array of questions. His response to those questions provided a greater understanding of the topics covered in the book. Critical thinking is essential after reading a piece of work. It means outwitting the author by formulating better questions. Putting this into consideration, a number of questions popped up in response to what I have read in Clinton's book. The first question is how can one identify persons which leadership traits? What is the true measure of a person's level of leadership? How can the development of maturing leaders be directed? What can leaders do to ensure that they pass through all the phases of leadership development? By asking and responding to these questions, the author could add up to the knowledge of his readers.

Action

In his book, Clinton has explained the phases leaders go through in becoming who God expects them to be. The book is significant in discovering how leaders develop from both a theological and Christian pastoral viewpoints. It is instrumental for the development of leadership and discipleship strategies in one's ministry, as well as in an organization. Clinton offers important tools of leadership development, rather than merely stating who leaders are.

After reading Clinton's book, I was able to gain much knowledge regarding leadership development. It would help me take various actions by implementing change, both in my personal life, as well as in the ministry. Relating to my personal leadership development, I understood that leaders are called by God to Christian ministry with the aim of developing them fully. It is my responsibility as a leader to carry on with development, in line with God's processing in my life. The identification of development phases by Clinton provides me with the capability of tracking my growth, as far as development is concerned. It also assists me in clarifying lessons, as well as insights. Equipped with these aspects, my capability of identifying and developing leadership, values, vision, character, as well as interpersonal skills is high. The section focusing on obedience check, integrity check, and word check are extremely beneficial in understanding the hardships and challenges I would face in my

ministry as a leader. Besides, by applying the phases outlined, I would be able to know the stage I am currently in.

The second action I would take is making changes in my ministry. I would use the information learned to teach my parishioners in my ministry. It would be accomplished through workshops and classes arranged once a week. The classes would invite people from different cultures, considering that the practices and principles provided apply to different cultural contexts. The lessons would cover the development phases, as well as the process items outlined in every stage. The identification of process items would help in equipping me with the tools of seeing beyond my current situation. As affirmed by Clinton, leaders should cultivate a ministry philosophy which respects values, in accordance with biblical leadership. Besides, embracing the challenges the come across is paramount. It is believed to be the only way of attaining long-term productivity. By offering the coaching classes, I believe that most people will identify where they stand as leaders and the phase they are currently in. Besides, it will assist others to identify their leadership skills and make efforts to develop.