

Lessons Learned from Failure

What are mistakes I've made in ministry and the lessons learned from them?

Dave Hall

1. ***Under-estimating the power that money brings into a relationship*** - Ministry is rarely (if ever) built on money. Focus on relationships and authentic friendships before material resources enter the conversation.
2. ***Under-estimating the potential for ministry development and leadership from non-paid, non-staff people in the church*** - You are not THE solution for the church's needs. He has gifted the body with amazingly talented people. Your job is to help discover them and facilitate them into ministry.
3. ***Assuming that difficult matters of personal relationship in ministry could be resolved by impersonal means of communication*** - Taking the cowardly way of an email will many times only serve to worsen a situation, not improve it. There are probably many more things that need to be said and heard in face to face encounters. Wait until you can do that...if at all possible.
4. ***Assuming that everyone wanted to hear my critique of a plan or idea*** - Not all thoughts should make an exit from my head by way of my mouth. Develop a filter and learn to be selective.
5. ***Rigidly sticking to my plan or program at the expense of people*** - Remember what endures into eternity...and what does not.
6. ***Believing that problems in a ministry or with a partner will get better all by themselves*** - Don't avoid challenging people or meetings. Problems you know to exist today, if ignored, will frequently do increasingly more damage to more people over time.
7. ***Assuming I have people all figured out...without even having to talk with or hear from them*** - There is always a part of the story you do not know.
8. ***Thinking I was in control of things far more than I really was*** - God is sovereign. It is His church and His world. He allows me to play in His sandbox, not the contrary. Learn to take yourself less seriously and Him far more seriously. Allow time and space for Him to do the work in the hearts of people that endures, not the temporary changes that come from manipulation or guilt.
9. ***Believing the concept of "not being a pleaser of men" allows me to not show deference and grace to other people*** - Learn to serve for the acclaim of God alone, while displaying graciousness and kindness to those around you.
10. ***Not listening to old guys like me!*** – Age and experience frequently (not always) bring with them beneficial wisdom worth hearing. Slow down and seek it out. You do not have to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Shared by Emmanuel Faith Community Church



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