

SOUTHWESTERN ASSEMBLIES OF GOD UNIVERSITY

Leadership Practicum

LDR 5333

Instructor: Dr. Rob Blakney

Assignment: Reader Response #1 – Christian Reflections on the Leadership Challenge.

(pp. 1-68)

STUDENT DATA:

Name: Daniel De los Reyes

Semester: Summer 2023

Date: May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

## READER RESPONSE

**Name of Book:** Christian Reflections on Leadership Challenge

**Authors:** Editors, James M. Kouzes & Barry Z. Posner. The sections I read had contributions from John Maxwell and David McAllister-Wilson.

**Pages read:** 1-68

**List 3 main points from your reading:**

1. Leadership is within reach of anybody if they are willing to subject themselves to a process (Kouzes & Posner, 2004, p. 2).
2. “As a leader, the first person I should lead is me. If I wouldn't follow myself, why should anyone else?” (Maxwell, 2004, p. 42)
3. “Leaders teach vision constantly, sometimes with words and sometimes through rich nonverbal and symbolic forms of communication” (McAllister-Wilson, 2004, p. 65).

**Were these new concepts to you?**

These three concepts were familiar to me; however, I have learned about them in a new light. For example, in the spring semester's class taught by Dr. Hartman, we explored the concept of leadership as a process. This idea interests me because if it is true, anybody who submits to a growth plan can learn to become a leader.

**How can you apply the concepts in your context?**

The second point, self-leadership, is a recurring topic for anybody who wants to become a better leader. Self-leadership is the most challenging type of leadership. I am responsible for one hundred percent of the mistakes I have made. This does not mean I need to be perfect to be worthy of others following me. However, I need to remain on a growth trajectory, evident by my external actions and words.

Finally, I have been working through what it looks like to be an organization's central leader and its implications. The leaders at the top must embody an organization's core values because people look up to them first. However, leaders at every level of an organization also need to embody the values of those who follow them. So the challenge for the leader at the top is building leaders who will embody the organization's core values by exemplifying them.

**What was the real “aha” moment for you in this reading?**

In his chapter, McAllister-Wilson explains the meaning of the Greek word “Metanoia,” which is often translated as change, but it is the changing that transforms minds, hearts, and actions (2004, p. 67). Furthermore, McAllister-Wilson explains that it is not a once-and-done type of change but a transformation over time that takes a whole life through the power of the Holy Spirit (2004, p. 67). So often, we think accomplishing the mission is up to us. We go to work in ministry thinking everything depends on us. Although there is labor on our part involved, the one that transforms people is the Holy Spirit. McAllister-Wilson compares Christian leadership to a sailboat rather than a rowboat (2004, p.67). Sailboats soar by the breath of the Spirit, and rowboats depend only on human effort.

## Reference List

Kouzes, J., & Posner, B. (Eds.). (2004). *Christian Reflections on the Leadership Challenge*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Maxwell, J. (2004). *Reflections on Model the Way* in J. M. Kouzes, & B. Z. Posner. (Eds.). *Christian Reflections on the Leadership Challenge* (pp. 41-54). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

McAllister-Wilson, D. (2004). *Reflections on Inspire a Shared Vision* in J. M. Kouzes, & B. Z. Posner. (Eds.). *Christian Reflections on the Leadership Challenge* (pp. 55-70). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.