

Interview Assessment #6

This week I had another amazing discussion with Mr. Mike Rodriguez where I finally asked him to be my mentor. That being said, I will now have two mentors in the class, however, Mr. Mike's work as my mentor already began with my first interview that I had with him. This phone call he taught me even more about what it is to go in life with a mindset of furthering the kingdom of God.

Our phone call began with me asking him to be my mentor, which he gladly accepted, and I then began to explain the opportunity and excitement I had with the organization of Set A Pattern. I told him that Ashley was going to be my other mentor, and he then paused what I was saying. He told me that excitement could be something that leads me down the wrong path. Emotions are powerful, and they ultimately can lead someone blindly in a bad direction. After he made it clear that I should think about my decisions more instead of reacting based on excitement he told me the differences between an opportunity and a distraction. Not that Set A Pattern, or Ashley is a distraction, but he just wanted to jump on this obvious need that I had to learn this lesson. What he told me is that many things are brought up to me and will be in my life that look like amazing opportunities; however, it is often seen that it could just be a wolf in sheep's clothing. As it comes to find out that the "opportunity" that I thought I was receiving was actually a distraction.

What is a distraction? A distraction is anything that looks good at first, but inevitably will stay me farther from God, or what God wants from me. While an opportunity is the opposite of that. It inevitably will guide me closer to God and allow me to further his kingdom. The problem is that it can be extremely difficult to see what the difference between them is. Sometimes it can be obvious, for instance, he explained that the reasons pastors and ministers are seen to have affairs quite often is because they get distracted by their leadership roles and a "young person" that shows them interest. This is easily seen as a distraction, but for them they think that it is an opportunity. Most likely though, these distractions and opportunities are very difficult to see, for most distractions reveal themselves down the road in the long run. The result of distractions usually cause you to give more than you will receive. Mike gave an example of this, for instance, he was approached by who he thought was a really nice christian man, looking to have him lead seminars for his youth christian men company, Mike first asked him what they would have liked from him. The man responded that they needed three two hour talks a week. Mr. Rodriguez is very busy and popular to have to speak, so he could not put up that much time for them, but he still wanted to help, so he told them that he could speak once a month. The man then got irritated and declined his offer. This opportunity Mike was getting was actually a distraction, as the man seemed at first to be nice, but then was very rye. The cost of this distraction would also be more than he would receive.

So, how do you pick out distractions from opportunities? There are three steps that Mike explained to me that will allow me to see if things are an opportunity or distraction. First, I need to pray about it. I need to find out if this is what God wants for me. While I communicate with God, I also need to communicate with people I am close with. As these people know me and know if it will benefit me in the long run. Second, I need to take time, as at first the opportunity will bring excitement which may lead me to make a quick decision. So, taking time allows for me to actually think about the pros and the cons. Last, I need to get as much information as I possibly can, distractions at first always present themselves as perfect, however, nothing is. So, I need to find out what I will be really getting myself into with this opportunity if I decide to pursue it.