

## 5. Servant Leadership

Mr. Joey Lina discussed what servant leadership is by sharing his experiences as a leader, as a former Senator, and as a Governor.

He laid down some foundations for a servant leadership to better understand the concept, that may help us move forward together on a common ground, in keeping with the spirit of solidarity of this forum.

Matthew 20:26 -27 said, "Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave." As he quoted from the Holy Bible.

If a person wants to lead, he must serve. Leadership means the ability to exercise authority, but authority means service. Servant leadership, therefore, is authority used to serve the needs of others. But given the corruption in society now, particularly considering the scandals in the government as he cited the Philippines present leadership, *is servant leadership doable, or is it an impossible dream?*

Servant leadership is a way of life and a frame of mind. A way of life based on a way of thinking and believing. It is a concrete action taken on a statement of faith. As one believes in servant leadership, as one internalizes it, there becomes an urgent need to serve other people. Not to lord it over or to use people, but to give an earnest and heartfelt service -- to use one's talent, resources, money, energy, charisma, and expertise to serve others.

He also stressed the need for a leadership that is God-centered. "Our own experience shows that even if we have the best and the brightest people, but if they are not imbued with the right spirit, if they are not imbued with the Spirit of God, they can easily be gobbled up and absorbed by the world and its evils."

A servant leader must have the love of God and country foremost in mind and heart which gives him the passion to serve at all costs. A servant leader must pursue a personal relationship with God, seek to know and live according to God's will, nurture spiritual growth through daily prayer and spiritual reading, and fellowship with other servant leaders. These are indispensable. These are his sources of strength. A relationship with God is not lip service. You have to live it. Everyday, you must have a regimen, prayer time, and Bible reading so that the Spirit will always be with you. A servant leader seeks the will of God and His righteousness as the highest good for the nation, and inspires others to do likewise.

But we don't just need a praying leader. We need one with a heart for the people, especially the poor. A servant leader who has genuine compassion for his people. knows the problems of the community as a whole, finds the solution to the problem, and has the skill to carry out the solution. He talks with the people, shares the problem with the people, and comes up with a solution.

A servant leader must also be competent in that he possesses the organizational skills to rally, lead, inspire and motivate the people towards the actualization of the vision, the implementation of the solutions to the problem. Otherwise, the grand ideas will remain just that, ideas, not finding any concrete application on the ground.

Continuity is also essential to servant leadership. A servant leader must be generous to give what he knows freely and generously to a next generation of leaders. It is the responsibility of true servant leadership to invest time and effort to develop the next generation of leaders who shall continue in the same way of life, the same frame of mind and heart, and even improve on the service of his mentor.

The task of servant leadership is not just the task of raising up leaders of vision, godliness, compassion and competence. The task of servant leadership also means transforming citizens of society into men and women aware of and pursuing God's plan for His people. "Change must begin with us. Here. Today."

Before you see the dirt in your neighbor's eye, you must look at yourself and see if you have shortcomings yourself. If this is our attitude, a lot of things can change. If you say that it is hopeless, it is like saying that you yourself are hopeless. If we must change others, we must see to it that we ourselves are changed first.

Servant leadership is not simple, but not impossible. We act with God, one leader at a time. One family at a time. One community at a time. One province at a time. One region at a time. And then... It is not far at all. Certainly it is not impossible.

"With God, all things are possible."