

Impromptu Speech 4

Have you ever been in a situation where everything was changing too fast? How did you deal with it? I remember at one time I was promoted to a supervisory position, and everyone including my close acquaintances expected me to take on more responsibilities. The new found recognition that I could lead brought about a spiral of more activities being directed at me. However, I found that this new found authority was getting to my head. Subconsciously, I became vain and proud, and before I realized it, I had lost a couple of friends. Although in the accolades world I was winning, I was slowly losing the empathetic side of me. That is when I realized that I had to slow down. At that point, it became clear to me that I needed to seek advice from a leadership coach on the best way to lead and still maintain my friendships. After a series of mentorship classes, I understood basic leadership and emotional intelligence skills that helped me win my friends back. On another episode, during my birthday, I had invited my friends, only to realize later that I had forgot notifying my parents that my friends were coming. Regardless, my parents overlooked my mistake and even made quick arrangements to prepare dinner for my friends too. That was really a humbling gesture that taught me to always plan well ahead of time.

It is true that mentors make a huge impact. I came to this realization two years ago in my place of work. I had been one of the top performing employees, and then the worst happened – I was no longer performing as per my targets. I was unmotivated, and felt exhausted. As many of us do in these situations, I blamed my boss for not getting promoted and threatened to quit. However, my boss called me to his office. But I wasn't as bothered. I expected the worst. However, to my surprise, he calmly spoke to me enquiring on how I had been performing over the last one year. At this point I was in shock. I was not expecting a positive performance appraisal. After all, I had performed dismally. Maybe on purpose, or maybe because I felt my

performance could not be improved. The boss, as he likes to be called, told me that he had noticed of my recent slump and why I needed to work harder. He reminded me of my professional vision, and the prospects of a great career growth if I worked hard. This was an amazing moment for me. I felt valued, loved and understood. Imagine how far your team can go when you correct them while motivating them!