Jacob Mullins

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ITI Technical College

Dr. M.J. Turner II

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**Introduction**

In this TED Talk, four-star general Stanley McChrystal tells stories of his experiences of how he learned to be a better leader. McChrystal stories explain how he learned his lessons on how to be a better leader, and what lead up to him learning how to be a better leader. McChrystal story spanned over at least a decade, showing that a being a great leader is one that is always learning how to be a good leader.

**Explanation of the Video**

McChrystal stars his TED talk with a story about him being a paratrooper. After jumping on the day of 9/11, McChrystal explains in his talk, even though McChrystal knew his soldiers would be prepared for combat, things have changed, and McChrystal would also have to change. McChrystal explains after a training exercise when McChrystal company did a dawn attack on their enemy, the training facility pulls up a screen and they would point out all the mistakes that was made during the exercise. McChrystal apologized to his battalion commander because he felt that he let down his battalion commander. After hearing McChrystal’s battalion commander telling him he thought he did a good job, McCrystal realized that a good leader let you fail without letting you be a failure. Years later, McCrystal explained, McChrystal had to lead a new company for a mission through digital media. This was something McCrystal had to learn how to be a leader without being in person. At the same time, now McCrystal realized he had to learn how to lead a group of people with generation differences. McCrystal explained this forced him to become more willing to listen, and transparent to continue to grow as a leader.

**Main Idea**

McChrystal main point of his talk was the different between a leader and a good leader is a good leader is always learning to be a good leader. McChrystal’s talk shows that he would not be as successful as a leader if he never continued to grow as a leader. Through McChrystal’s experience, he also came to realize that a good leader will let someone fail without letting that person become a failure.

**Putting it into Practice**

If I became a team leader on a project or a manager of an IT department, being a good leader is not about managing your team but to lead them to success. I would have to allow them to fail, but also allow them to learn that because you failed does not make you a failure. I would also have to continuously grow with my team over time, because I may not always have the same people over my career. This means I would have to let them teach me as I teach them.

**Closing**

To sum it together, McChrystal’s TED talk was multiple stories explaining and show his experiences allowed to realize what it takes to be a good leader. McChrystal through his experiences, a good leader is continuously growing and allows his subordinates to teach him as he teaches them. McChrystal also realized a good leader will let you fail without letting you become a failure. This TED talk allowed me to realize, when I become a leader or manager, instead of managing my team, I will grow with my team, and will not let them be failures.