# **W01 Reflection Write-Up: Lance Armstrong**

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Armstrong left a feeling of disappointment, hopelessness and disgust. He was someone

that was adorated and looked up. He was named sportsman of the year and receive many

distinctions and prizes. Armstrong’s words were: “For me, I think it was about that ride

and about losing myself and getting caught up in that and doing all those things along the

way. And then the ultimate crime is the betrayal of these people who support me and

believed in me, and they got lied to.” This is a bit ironical because that’s exactly how

people felt with him. They lost themselves in cheering him but then he betrayed them.

Almost everybody suffered from Armstrong’s cheating. All the sports lover, all the bikes’

lovers. LeMond a bike rider said: “I can’t come to grips with how corrupt it has

become”. In addition, he suffered greatly because of his public criticism of Armstrong

and the broader use of doping in professional cycling. “created a massive rift in the sport.

He added that: “Lance is the epitome of the opposite of what a champion is. He gets away

with it because he’s a cancer survivor”.

But probably the ones who suffered from his cheating the most were his teammates and

co-workers. It is mentioned that they were expected and force to cheat because of him.

Hamilton said: “I am not proud of that decision. I wish with all my heart that I’d been

stronger, that I’d dropped that red egg [testosterone pill] back into the bottle and suffered

through another day at the back… I wish I’d realized that path I was taking, wish I’d

quit the sport…”

Even though they are not free of any guilt, Hamilton and Landis were very subjected to a

supreme leader. Whenever you enter any type of organization there is this pressure and

stress inside. I don’t believe that Hamilton or Landis were loyal to Armstrong but neither

they were loyal enough. When they started to dope themselves because of Armstrong it

wasn’t entirely their fault but after being rejected by Armstrong they continue to use

doping substances and they can be blamed in that way.

I believe that they were only co-workers that at one point were very loyal to him since

they were friends but eventually turned out due to their guilt and probably their

unhappiness.

There was a time when I was in a group with many friends. There was one friend that

was more charismatic and outgoing than any of us. It was night but he decided that we

should go out to a lake a chill there. I was very uncomfortable with this situation because

it there were some girls with us, and I thought that it would be very awkward. I also saw

that the others were feeling the same way but wouldn’t say anything because of the statue

of that friend. I felt that even though I wasn’t like him, I should raise my opinion. First of

all, for me so that I won’t get in any troublesome situation but also for those that do not

have the necessary courage.

During my mission, there were some leaders that suggested to move out the preparation

day from 8am-6pm to 10am and not work during the evening. There were a lot of

missionaries that followed these suggestions and found themselves following leaders in a

bad zone. The results were that all these missionaries were reprimanded by the mission

president and lost the mission president’s trust. There were still some missionaries that

have objected to that, but they were in minority and therefore weren’t listened.

I have always said to myself that I do not want to be in any position that could embarrass

me or my family. I know that sometimes, in order to be in a higher position, there needs

to be lobbying or dishonest procedures, but I said that I would always trust in the Lord

and if I do not get what I want, God will still bless me in a way or another.

Of course, there are times when I am in the grey area but since I have made up my choice

a long time ago, I can easily walk away from these kinds of situations.

I will measure my life by my happiness and the peacefulness of my mind. If I feel any

kind of guilt or remorse, I know that there is something that I have done which is not in

accordance with the principles I have set for myself.

I will measure my success by my relationship with Christ. As Matthew 6:21 says, “For

where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,”. My success will be my treasure

and the comfort of my family is my treasure.

## References

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