



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

I find myself spending far less time these days pondering the “news.” War on Capitol Hill. Earthquakes of epic proportions. Winter snow everywhere *but* where they need it. Uncertainty about the continued financial restoration after the Earthquake on Wall Street. Anyone seen any *good news*?

Trouble: *difficulty or problems; public unrest or disorder.* That’s easy for Webster to say; it’s far more difficult to navigate as an unwelcome intrusion into your life. What do *you* do about *trouble*?

You’re probably like me in this regard, aren’t you? I mean, *don’t we try to avoid trouble, best we can?* I feel like I’ve spent my adult lifetime trying to do that... and, occasionally failing miserably.

I don’t mean dumb stuff. For example, I know where the speed traps are around home. Why take chances? Keep it within five mph of the limit; I haven’t had a speeding ticket in 30 years. *Who needs trouble?*



I’ve never been the defendant in any court action; even in my business years, I perfected the art of rolling over. Give in to the unreasonable; cheaper than proving your innocence in a courtroom. *Who needs trouble?* I mean, if you work at it, *can’t you avoid trouble?*

I made it to 40 with a pretty clean record. In fact, a lot of people who sat in my audiences knew I had avoided most trouble... and discounted my perspective accordingly. I heard it more than once: “What does he know? He’s never gone through trouble like I have ...” I was allergic to trouble, and it cost me - in the eyes of some - credibility.

Forty was a bad year for me. The party in May was okay, but in August that year, the wheels came off.

Literally, the tread came off the Firestone tires on our Ford Explorer... and, multiple-roll-overs later, I was near death with massive head injuries. *Trouble.*

Forty-two wasn't much better. My *bod* was better, but *job* got traumatized. My business card said *Senior Pastor*, but it was missing a word: it should have included the word, *Interim*. My professional life rolled over - with no more warning than we had with the Explorer - and, once again, I very publicly kissed trouble on the lips.

As much as I have worked to avoid trouble in life, it occasionally finds me. Like smart firepower that defines warfare in the 21st Century, trouble can nail me whenever it wants to... and land in my life without warning. Does trouble have the power to destroy me? *Does it have the power to destroy you?*

Some interesting perspective on that subject is woven into a book from Warren Bennis. In *Geeks & Geezers: How Era, Values, and Defining Moments Shape Leaders*, Bennis and Robert Thomas, his co-author, report their research on the common denominators of leaders from multiple generations. One of their findings: that every leader, regardless of age, had under

gone at least one intense, transformational experience - what the authors call a "crucible." *"These events can either make you or break you. For emerging leaders, they do more making than breaking, providing key lessons to help a person move ahead confidently."* **Trouble.**

When God walks us through His Leadership Hall of Fame, He points out the sign in the exhibit that explains the trouble in each display: *"... others were tortured and refused to be released... some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about... destitute, persecuted and mistreated - the world was not worthy of them."* (Hebrews 11:35-38). **Trouble.**

I want to avoid dumb-trouble; no sense bringing it on myself. I've learned, however, that there is a brand of trouble that can't be avoided... if you expect to lead. You've learned that, too, haven't you? Hang in there, friend. Just the other side of trouble comes credibility; *you cannot achieve it without trouble.*

Bob Shank

Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).

To read prior issues of the Point of View visit: www.mastersprogram.net

To read a Program Summary of TMP visit:

www.mastersprogram.org/summary/

To donate, visit:

www.mastersprogram.org/link/donate.html

To go, visit:

www.mastersprogram.org/storage/peru.pdf