

Your Person

BY BRIAN D. MOLITOR

Recently, a television series called *Survivor* captured the attention of millions of viewers. The show chronicled the adventures of sixteen people marooned on an island for thirty-nine days. During the course of their stay, they were faced with a wide variety of natural and man-made challenges that included lack of food, torrential rainstorms, and various contests of skill.

The biggest challenge for the island dwellers was that of staying in the good graces of the other people. Why? Because the prize for the final survivor was a tidy one million dollars and every three days the group voted one person off the island.

For the people involved, life on the island seemed to have two speeds. One was full stop. Boredom. Sitting and waiting for something to happen. The other was full speed ahead. Exciting. Running, jumping, competing. The pace was not the only thing that changed dramatically in that fantasy land. Relationships also changed like the weather. Today's ally was tomorrow's enemy. As the stakes went higher, the trust went lower. Many players compromised their own standards of integrity just so that they could "win".

Sound familiar?

This island adventure was much like the challenges that we face daily in our personal lives. Constant change, intense competition, changing alliances and plenty of opportunities to compromise our own integrity. However, there is one major difference. While the show made for some interesting entertainment, it wasn't real for one primary reason. There was no downside. From a financial perspective, the worst the participants could do was not win. Off camera, there were staff

personnel to make sure no one drowned or starved to death.

This is a very different scenario than what we face in the real world. The constant bombardment of change forces us to react and respond quickly, just like our island friends. However, this is not a game; it is real life with swift and often dramatic consequences for our decisions. Our jobs,



al Guide

for Surviving Change

health, families and futures are all on the line daily.

In order to survive, the game show participants played by certain guidelines during their stay on the island. The players that managed changing conditions by following the guidelines increased their chances of survival.

Here are some guidelines that you and I can use to not only survive, but to thrive here in the real world.

To be a true overcomer in life, you must do more than just “win”. You must also remain true to yourself and your values.

SET YOUR COURSE

The first thing you must do is to set your course. Decide what you want to achieve in life and where you want to go. Identify your gifts, talents, and interests (not someone else’s). Decide how, where and with whom you want to spend your priceless 80 to 90 years on this earth and set your course to make it happen. Remember, if you don’t know where you want to go, it doesn’t matter how you get there! Once your course is set, it does not matter how big a storm comes against you. You can resume your journey, even after a shipwreck as long as you remember your original course.

SET YOUR STANDARDS

To be a true overcomer in life, you must do more than just “win”. You must also remain true to yourself and your values. This means that once you have set your course and are headed in the right direction, you must determine how you will treat others and yourself on the journey. For example, you do not need to change your view of morality, ethics or proper business

procedures just because those around you do. It has been said, “*every person has a price*”. This means that we all will compromise our standards when offered a high enough incentive or when we need to “survive” in business. This does not have to happen! Set your standards and never compromise them no matter what happens. This will keep you on course and feeling good about yourself along the journey.


DON’T GO IT ALONE

One of the saddest consequences of today’s onslaught of change is the breakdown of relationships. Couples divorce, partnerships dissolve, church-

es split and loneliness sets in. If we are not careful, stress, lack of communication, and just plain overload can make friends seem like enemies. Don’t let that happen to you! Take time to carefully select your companions for the journey and then stay connected with them.

FUEL YOUR FAITH

During seasons of change, there are often times that are just plain frightening. At times it seems that all is lost and that our dreams will no longer survive. These are the times that require us to check our course, make sure that we have held on to our standards, and are in right relationship with God and our companions. If all of these aspects are in place, there is only one thing left to do—fuel your faith! Faith in what?

Faith in yourself. Faith in those around you. And, especially faith in your Creator that placed the dreams in your heart in the first place. He is more than able to see that both you and your dreams not only survive but thrive! 

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