

MOVING MOUNTAINS

A few years ago, I was invited to speak at an entrepreneur programme that was being run from inside a prison in Cape Town. It was the same prison Nelson Mandela had been released from in the early nineteen nineties.

It was a small programme with twenty men participating in it. A friend of mine who runs it asked me to come and talk. He wanted me to unpack some real-life challenges I'd had as a business owner and also inspire these future entrepreneurs,

It was a humbling experience, to say the least. I didn't know what to expect as I walked in. As I arrive at the venue, I was warmly greeted by a group of men hungry for knowledge and the desire to better their lives through business when they left one day.

For about thirty minutes, I shared my journey as a businessman discussing my top ten failures as an entrepreneur. There were many laughs in the room as I shared some horror stories and epic fails. The main reason for me sharing my blunders is I wanted them to know you learn, through failure. Not success. And that business, much like life, was complicated at times.

As my talk came to an end, I asked them one final question. How to move a mountain? I stood back, waiting for the hands to go up. Instead, I was greeted with grins and blank stares. Eventually, someone said, "you can't!" I waited some more and then replied, "you can if you do it a stone at a time."

I continued, "you see, some days you wake up, and you feel invincible. On those days you can pick up big rocks or boulders. Then there are other days when your confidence is robbed, you feel weak and intimidated. On those days you pick up pebbles."

The key thing out of this is to pick something up every day. The mere act of doing this builds your faith. Whereas, sitting back produces fear and paralysis of analysis.

What are you going to pick up today?

Garth Jemmett
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