

Eleven Angry Men and One Leader

The movie Twelve Angry Men represents a perfect scenario for how leaders can motivate and convince others to come to their viewpoint and change strongly held opinions simply by the act of leading others. As a cinematic work, there are several points to be made about the film since we do not get to know the names of any of the jurors except the leader Davis and the first of the jurors who support him, i.e. McCardle (Wikipedia, 2007). On a deeper analysis of the film, it becomes clear that the trait theory of leadership and the idea of building relationships with followers are both highly applicable in terms of how the leader manages to bring everyone else in the room to his viewpoint.

The story itself begins when a murder case presentation is finished and the twelve men who form the jury must come back with a unanimous decision of guilty or not guilty. The main part of the action between them comes from the record of deliberations which the jury have but no one knows each other by their name and whatever information is shared between them is about the case or their personal experiences. The leader, Davis, is the first one to show his mind and independence of thought since he is the only one to vote not guilty while all others think that the accused is guilty.

This certainly means that the relationship between the leader and the followers is a negative one to begin with since all of the other jurors become angry with him for dissenting and not seeing the nature of the case as a simple one (House, 2004). Some even say that Davis is a fool for trying to keep them in on a very hot day while they could be going on with their lives but Davis sticks to his guns and reminds the men of their duty to the accused and to the justice system where they have to honestly consider the case before sending a man off to death.

The relationship between the leader and the followers becomes very tense when it seems that Davis is simply being stubborn and different because he wants to be different. However, Davis does have excellent communications skills and confirms that he has reasonable doubt and therefore he could not with good conscious return a guilty verdict. The idea of reasonable doubt is something which Davis certainly pushes on to the followers and it does manage to convince his first convert that there could be some doubt in how the accused could be innocent rather than guilty.

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