

## **Lessons Learned as a Businessman, Politician, and Philanthropist**

Lord Edmiston has experience as a successful businessman, who has at times employed more than 1000 people, as a former member of the British House of Lords who has listened to many political debates and has a continuing interest in politics, and as a philanthropist who is donating significant funds to a Christian ministry he has established with operations in 27 countries. Out of this experience and passion, he will share some of the lessons he has learned.

**Lord Robert Edmiston** was born in India in 1946, the son of a war time fighter pilot, and came to the UK at the age of three and subsequently spent five years in Kenya before returning to the UK in 1962. He started his career as a bank clerk but today owns companies in the property, motor, and finance sectors. He is a father of a grown-up family and has ten grandchildren. He is married to Tracie and together in 1988 they founded CV, an international charity with offices in 22 countries working to support the Christian church in the areas of evangelism and discipleship in both the online and offline space. Lord and Lady Edmiston also sponsor three senior schools. Lord Edmiston, having been a member of the House of Lords, retired in July 2015 to devote more time to his charitable activities.

### **I. As a Businessman**

- A. It is not the amount of effort, but the direction that matters most. Jesus knew his strategic direction.
- B. Luke 7:35 “wisdom is justified of all her children”. To the fool wisdom is stupidity.
- C. Do it now. Example of Mary and others
- D. Touch it once.
- E. Keep your word.
- F. See their point of view.
  - a. Solomon and the baby.
  - b. Don’t grow weary in well doing
  - c. Don’t despise prophecy
- G. 1 Kings 3:9 Solomon sought wisdom and wealth was added to him. Wealth without wisdom has wings.
- H. Money talks, it says goodbye.
- I. People came from far and wide to hear Solomon’s wisdom. They will ask you if you are wise.

- J. Apart from the right direction, determination and enthusiasm are vital to success.
- K. Talent has legs, loyalty sticks.
- L. They are neither for you or against you, they are merely for themselves.
- M. A soft answer turns away anger
- N. Should you sue a fellow Christian?

## **II. As a Politician**

- A. Decisions take time.
- B. Every point of view has to be considered.
- C. Compromises are made.
- D. Relationships count.

## **III. As a Philanthropist**

- A. Listen to what God says, even if it doesn't make sense. Example RB
- B. Don't argue with God, you'll never win. (Giving Challenge)
- C. If He doesn't say anything then follow the last instruction.
- D. Plan your giving, don't be haphazard.
- E. Don't be embarrassed to say no to friends
- F. Christians are not always honest.
- G. Have a checking mechanism in place.

### ***Suggested Readings:***

Proverbs