

Mallory's New Title -- A Modern Day Parable

Inspired by 1Samuel 3:3-19, and John 1:35-42

Mallory was sleeping in her apartment in the city where she worked. She awoke in the night hearing the CEO of her company calling her name. She sat up and turned on a light. "Here I am. You called me," she said to the empty room. Mallory sat very still listening, but heard nothing more. She shrugged and lay back down. "It was just a dream," she told herself, and went back to sleep.

Again, Mallory heard the CEO calling her name. She sat up abruptly. "Here I am," she said to the dark. "You called me." This time she didn't bother turning on the light for she knew no one was there. Mallory awoke hearing the CEO calling her name again, for the third time. She got out of bed and walked to her small kitchen table to have a cup of tea and try to figure out why this was happening. She wasn't sure what to think of it. She hadn't even met the CEO of the company as she was fairly young in her career, and very far down the chain of command. She knew him only by the training videos for new hires. Mallory was supervised by Don, the Marketing Manager. Don answered to the Vice President, who answered to the CEO, whose office was on the top floor of the building.

That morning in the office, Don, the Marketing Manager, was standing with two of the company executives and as he watched Mallory walk by, he said, Mallory is a brilliant team member. She has a real gift for brand marketing. The CEO heard what Don said and he followed Mallory. She turned and saw him following her and said to him, "What are you looking for?" He said to her, "Where are you working at this moment?" She said to him, "Come, and you will see." So they went down to the basement, passed by rows of filing cabinets, through the mail room, into a small closet, and saw where she was working. It really wasn't big enough to be labeled an office, and it was furnished with an old metal desk and a metal folding chair. There were no windows and certainly no frills. Mallory brightened the place with a bright blue lamp and a few bright blue desk accessories.

"It's not so bad," she said after seeing the look of horror on the CEO's face. "Besides, I'm on the move a lot checking on the progress of my projects, working with the creative team to be sure each account is represented the best it can be."

The CEO decided to observe Mallory the rest of the day. At about 4:00 in the afternoon, Douglas, a friend and co-worker of Mallory, who had overheard part of the executives' conversation, went to his brother, Timothy, who also worked at the company and told him, "The 'Upper Brass' have discovered Mallory's talent."

Just then, the CEO brought Mallory before the whole main floor office. He looked at her and said, "This is Mallory, one of your team members who excels at her job. I believe she may one day rise to my position of CEO of this company. For now, you will be called Branding Manager, and you will be moved to the Executive Suite upstairs."

