Paper

Nick E. Gilewski

Ethical Practices in Leadership and Policy ADS 760

Dr. DeSimone

Niagara University

December 1, 2018

I still believe in Karma after attending Dr. DeSimone’s Ethical Practices in Leadership and Policy course and after reading “Justice” by Michael J. Sandel. However, I have a different perspective on why people do things, whether it be intentionally or unintentionally. My first impression of a person that behaved in a manner that was improper, nefarious, or crass, was because they were completely ignorant or just didn’t give a damn.

Sandel explains numerous reasons and philosophies that cause people to behave, what I would have considered, inappropriately. According to Sandel inappropriate actions or behaviors of someone with a utilitarian philosophy is acceptable as long as their actions benefit the majority. Conversely, Kantianism or absolute behavior is about always sticking to a moral code of conduct; whereas, if it is morally wrong, don’t do it, no matter what! Libertarianism, is another philosophy on how people act or react in life. A libertarian believes in minimal state and or government intervention, similarly to a laisses-faire political philosophy. For example, you should be able to sell your kidney, because it’s simply yours; however, it is illegal. Lastly, Sandel discusses a pursuit of happiness exercising the Aristotelianism Philosophy of moral virtue. In other words, Aristotle felt that if we just focused on being good people, the right actions will follow without effort (Sandel, 2010).

After, having read “Justice” and attending Dr. DeSimone’s Ethical Practices in Leadership and Policy course, I am somewhat conflicted under which principles I would like to follow. I feel as though I live and act under the principles of two philosophies; both Aristotelianism and Kantianism. Hence, the outcome my first draft of “This I Believe.” I will not sway from my original principles, but I will better understand the behaviors and motives of others. Prior to this class, and not haven taken a philosophy class, my philosophies were adopted from my upbringing, and experiences. After having said that, I now consider myself somewhat ignorant for generalizing people as idiots for lying, cheating, and stealing. After all, there may have been a greater good, a virtuous, autonomous, or moral code that drove that particular person’s demeanor.

As mentioned earlier, “I still believe in karma,” moreover that some people are plagued with bad karma due to their “intended” actions or behaviors. I want to reiterate that, bad karma pertains to those people that know the difference between right and wrong and conduct themselves in a manner contrary to integrity, morality and conscientiously. Please note, that there is also a version of good karma. Whereas good things will happen to good people when they are in need of it, or when they least expect it. The world would be a better place if it were made up of people that behaved and acted in a manner that followed both Aristotelianism and Kantianism philosophies, which would result in more people enriched with good karma versus bad karma.

# References

Sandel, M. J. (2010). *JUSTICE .* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.