

## **Are you humbitious?**

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As an international art dealer and author from Texas, Ron Hall appeared to have an idyllic life. Nice house. Nice car. Nice social circle.

Not so much...

In his book, *Same Kind of Different as Me*, Ron describes how his life changed after he confessed his illicit affair to his wife of 19 years. It is a compelling story about the circumstances that can corrupt, divide and destroy us. It is also an unexpected lesson in the redemptive power of compassion, grace and courage. Plus, it's about *humbition* – the powerfully positive combination of humility and ambition.

Deborah, his feisty brunette wife, forgave Ron. Even so, he was determined to make amends for his transgression. So, he began to volunteer with her at a Ft. Worth homeless shelter where he met Denver Moore: a scary frequent visitor who wielded a bat and threatened everyone in sight. Somehow, they were destined to become close friends.

After his wife passed away from cancer, Ron healed the loss by journaling. From that, he and Denver wrote the aforementioned book that remained on the *New York Times* bestseller list for over three years. In 2017, it was made into a major motion picture starring Greg Kinnear and Renee Zellweger. Ron and Denver were propelled onto a national platform that helped them to raise millions of dollars to help the homeless. (In fact, Ron will be speaking to OK Ethics' guests in Oklahoma City on February 25.)

By openly exposing his frailties and wounds, Ron modeled some key leadership traits that are too often overlooked:

**Authenticity:** We're not perfect and real leaders don't pretend to be. Ron is courageous in his admittance of flaws, which makes him approachable. He has embraced his mistakes as opportunities to grow and help others.

**Gratitude:** Part of being humble is appreciating others who help us along life's rocky roads. Ron readily acknowledges his wife's kind-heartedness transformed him "from a nobody to a somebody."

**Humble humanity:** Rubbing elbows with the rich and famous has not deterred Ron in his unwavering willingness to help others - no matter their station in life.

In a 2018 *Harvard Business Review* piece, writer Bill Taylor argues that we should be both humble and ambitious. In other words, simultaneously task-focused while still modestly comprehending our limitations. It is the only way to grow into resilient, humbitious leaders that organizations truly need.

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