

# Risk Taking, Barrier Breaking, Bold Leadership

Catherine Rohr (Interviewed by Jim Mellado)

Message length: 0:33:48

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## Message Details

As founder of Prison Entrepreneurship Program, Catherine Rohr trains soon-to-be-released prisoners to become contributors to society instead of takers. In this inspiring interview with Jim Mellado, Catherine shares her calling and discusses how she leads up, deals with criticism, and prevents burn-out.

## Speaker Introduction

At age 30, Catherine Rohr is the CEO and founder of the nonprofit Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP). Under her leadership, the program recruits volunteer senior business executives who provide training, mentoring, and support to prison inmates. The participants in this one-of-a-kind program have achieved a 98 percent employment rate and have launched 40 entrepreneurial businesses. Currently PEP is refining resources to replicate its model in facilities nationwide.

- Note: This is an interview of Catherine Rohr by Jim Mellado, President of Willow Creek Association

## Message Beginning

Option of using introduction video: *"Here's an inside look into Catherine Rohr and the Prison Entrepreneurship Program..."*

OR

Start at the beginning of interview: *"Now let's join Jim Mellado as he interviews Catherine Rohr..."*

## Message End

**END: SAM AMAYA:** So you're not going to find a better underdog story anywhere else. I encourage you all not to be scared and come down to Cleveland, Texas to come join us at the prison. Thank you.

**JIM MELLADO:** I'd like to lead all of us in a prayer for Catherine and the PEP team, all the aspiring entrepreneurs, and the graduates that are already outside. Let us pray.

**JIM MELLADO: (Prayer)** Father, I am so grateful to you for grace. What a beautiful picture of grace. And Father, you know what's so true is that

everything really is level at the foot of the cross. We're all standing there at the same level. And I'm so grateful, Father, that You impassioned Catherine with a holy discontent that consumed her, Father, to give herself to do something nobody else was doing, in a way nobody else was thinking.

And I'm so glad that Your Holy Spirit went before her and gave her favor with the folks that she needed to have favor with to get this ministry into the prison, I thank you for every graduate that stands here today saying my number one thing is I want to follow God, I want to change my life, I want to follow his ways, I want to give back to society, I don't want to take anymore. I've seen them, I've talked to them, Father, this is true, I can sense it, it's deeply believed in the core of their being.

And so Father, we pray Your hand of blessing on this ministry going into the future, that You would provide other Catherine's for other states. In Jesus' name and by His power, Amen.

## Facilitator Close (How will you challenge people to take action?)

Catherine says calling is not about jumping ship to do something we are inspired to do, but our calling is to be obedient everyday and do the things God is calling you and me to do. Catherine quoted her pastor who said "Just show up in the morning, get your orders for the day and execute in obedience."

Have you executed the instructions you've received in obedience or have you allowed fear or criticism to stop you from pursuing your calling?

## Process Questions (Help people connect, reflect, interact)

- Take the next minute to write about your passion or calling.
- Have you ever dared to pray, "Bring it on God"?
- Is there anything you're not sure if you could give up to God?