

### Are There Secrets to Better Communication?

Ephesians 4:29: (NASB) Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.



communication.

We can talk in person or on the phone. We can Skype, conference, email, text, tweet, Instagram and Facebook. But are we communicating? Are we REALLY communicating? What role does communication play in our lives - is it simply a common tool of the human race or can it be transformational? Can better communication make your life and relationships better? Of course it can! How? We are glad you asked!

Today's approach to communication will not be a clinical study of the science of communication, nor will it be framed as a "self-help" study of the subject. Today we will share some simple observations and conclusions based upon Scripture and also upon six real life famous communications that had a massive impact on the world around them. We will discuss not just that they talked about but how they were delivered. Each segment of the program will feature one different observation of



Bluntness is not necessarily the way to get a point across. Sometimes it is hard to tell the difference between being bold and being blunt.

When politicians gave speeches years ago the speeches were usually one to two hours long. One of the greatest speeches in history was The Gettysburg Address, which was *only* 237 words and written on the back of an envelope by Abraham Lincoln on his way to Gettysburg to dedicate the field of battle. His speech was short, but amazingly bold and powerful.



## Part 1, The Gettysburg Address, Johnny Cash

• "Fourscore and seven years ago…" so began the message of a war-weary President Abraham Lincoln. A message written on the back of an envelope on a train on the way to dedicate a battlefield Where men from the north and

south had died at Gettysburg Pennsylvania:



"Four score and seven years ago our forefathers brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated in the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we're engaged in a great Civil War testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as the final resting place for those who here gave their lives that the nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

This speech was one of the most powerful communications in American history. Abraham Lincoln was talking about something so solemn and he did not waste a lot of words or use flowery speech. He gets to the point that this is about life and death and human freedom. He is being very bold in his communication by avoiding the normal approach.

### The power of reasoning:

Acts 17:16-31: (NASB) <sup>16</sup>Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present... <sup>19</sup>And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, may we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming? <sup>20</sup>For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean.

Paul is angry at the idolatrous words spoken. He communicated well enough to rouse curiosity and wisely enough to not insult! He reasoned with them and made them think. That is boldness without the bluntness!

## These honored dead, The Gettysburg Address, Johnny Cash

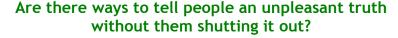
But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate we cannot consecrate
We cannot hallow this ground
For the brave men living and dead who struggled here
Have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract
The world will little note or long remember what we say here
But it can never forget what they did here
It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work
Which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced
It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us
That from these honored dead we take increased devotion
To that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion
That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died
In vain and that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom
And the government of the people by the people and for the people
Shall not perish from the earth.



### Now, as a result of wise communication, Paul has their undivided attention:

 $^{22}$ So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects.  $^{23}$ For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. (A bold claim!) <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;  $\overline{^{25}}$  nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; <sup>26</sup> and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, <sup>27</sup>that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; (A wise and inviting explanation) <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, For we also are His children. <sup>29</sup>Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. (Logical and revealing!) <sup>30</sup>Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, <sup>31</sup>because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising him from the dead. (The shocking truth - only revealed after building his case.)

He makes them want to listen. That is bold communication, not blunt communication.





How do you get tough without traumatizing? Let's look at the example and challenges of the church in Galatia. They were <u>being lulled</u> into a faulty belief system that said keeping the Law Covenant was of primary importance for Christian faith.

Along the same line of people being lulled into a quiet way of approaching things, if we go back to the beginning of World War II, the same thing was happening in Britain. They were being lulled into complacency thinking it's not so bad. One man, Winston Churchill, didn't believe that and stood up and said



what needed to be said and became one of the great communicators of our time.

(The man with the speech impediment speaks again and again to save Britain from a lulled complacency)

• However matters may go in France or with the French Government or with other French Governments, we in this island and in the British Empire will never lose our sense of comradeship with the French people. If we are now called upon to endure what they have been suffering we shall emulate their courage, and if final victory rewards our toils they shall share the gains, aye, and freedom shall be restored to all. We abate nothing of our just demands. Not one jot or tittle did we receive—Czechs, Poles, Norwegians, Dutch, Belgians, who joined their causes to our own. All these shall be restored. What General Weygand called the Battle of France is over.



He's talking about those in France who were undergoing great hardship and he's saying they are comrades and we're going to stand by them and we are going to learn from them and if we do become victorious, our victory is their victory.



# Paul begins his approach to the problem with a personal example of standing firm on principle no matter whom he stood before:

Galatians 2:11-14: (NASB) <sup>11</sup>But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup>For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. <sup>13</sup>The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy; with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. <sup>14</sup>But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?

The Apostle Paul said to Apostle Peter, "What are you doing? You're being a hypocrite and you're leading others down a hypocritical path. Why are you doing this?" He had the courage to stand up and speak and he also had the discernment to know what to say and how to say it. Peter could take the tough criticism because it was constructive.

Battle of Britain to start, Winston Churchill, House of Commons, June 18, 1940

• I expect the battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civility. Upon it depends our own British life, and the long continuity of our institutions and our empire. Though the fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be freed and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands.



# After such a strong example, Paul restates the truth of the matter from the ground up:

Galatians 2:15-21: (NASB) <sup>15</sup>We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles; <sup>16</sup>nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

Faith is the Christian foundation for being made right before God, no matter your background.

<sup>17</sup>But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be! <sup>18</sup>For if I rebuild what I have once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor. <sup>19</sup>For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.

He makes the transition. Once you build on Christ, there is no longer any foundation of the Law. It's a new building, a new process. Don't go back to something that used to be. Plant yourself in Christ. Paul is reasoning with the people not to be complacent.

<sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life, which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me. <sup>21</sup>I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.

The truth is firm! There is no room for half measures! You are either a Christian or you are not. Powerful communication is tough but not traumatizing. It has to be tough enough to make the point and has to change the hearts of men. How? You speak with them, not at them. A shouting match doesn't work.

In the next audio clip, Winston Churchill is saying the battle of Britain is about to start and Hitler knows he has to defeat us to accomplish his objective. So, Churchill paints a very sober picture.



But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new dark age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour."

There is such brilliance in his communication there. If we fail, the whole world is in jeopardy. He was tough but truthful and inspired others along the way.

Apostle Paul did the same thing.

### Knowing all that you know, what happened?

Galatians 3:1-5: (NASB) ¹You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? ²This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? ³Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵So then, does he who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

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Paul's communication proved to be a wakeup call to those who were foundering in this idea that the law was important to them.

What is the difference between "commanding respect" and demanding attention?



There is a difference between commanding respect and demanding attention!

Demanding attention - many celebrities, sports figures and politicians fall into this category - when they enter a room you know it, when they speak, people stop and when they move, people's eyes follow them.

### This is not just a modern day phenomena:

Acts 8:9-13: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people (demanding attention) of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; <sup>10</sup>and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, This man is what is called the Great Power of God. <sup>11</sup>And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts.

In the midst of the hype, there was Phillip - preaching, doing, inspiring!

<sup>12</sup>But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. <sup>13</sup>Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

Phillip was not demanding attention, but he was commanding respect. People were drawn to him. Even Simon believes.

Commanding respect - leaders, true heroes, those who have accomplished or discovered truly magnificent things and those who set an example for us step up into this category. When they enter a room, you observe it, even if they are not drawing attention to themselves. When they speak, people listen - they truly listen and when they move, people's hearts follow them.



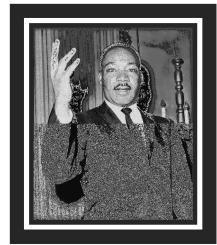
### Rick's personal example of miscommunication:

A young woman who Rick is close to decided to join e-Harmony (dating service). She was afraid to tell Rick so she had her sister tell him. She said, "By the way my sister joined e-Harmony." Rick was certain she said, "My sister joined the army." Rick reacted and said, "What do you mean she joined the army? That's a life-changing thing. You can't just do that on a whim." She's talking about e-Harmony and Rick's reacting to the army. Both wondering what was wrong with the other. They finally realized what each other one was saying.

This is a classic example of hearing the wrong thing and then having it settle in your head and heart and that is what you believe. Communication is such an important part of our daily lives.

Martin Luther King Jr. is another example of someone who didn't demand attention but commanded respect.

- (1) Longevity has its place, Martin Luther King's Last Speech, April 3, 1968
  - And so just as I say we aren't going to let any dogs or water hoses turn us around, we aren't going to let any injunction turn us around. Well, I don't know what will happen now; we've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life-longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now.



All these great communicators were talking about the theme of freedom.

### Peter and John show up and miraculously bestow the Holy Spirit:

Acts 8:18-24: (NASB) <sup>18</sup>Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup>saying, Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup>But Peter said to him, may your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! <sup>21</sup>You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

Simon said, "I want to do what you can do so I can really get people's attention." True godly communication has no need of attention getting tricks and gimmicks - it is a byproduct of a heart and mind fixed on God's will and God's plan.

<sup>22</sup>Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. <sup>23</sup>For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity. <sup>24</sup>But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.

Simon the sorcerer was humbled and afraid. Those who command respect can bring those who demand attention to their knees.





A caller from Connecticut suggests: I heard a story about a critic writing to a minister, and he gave him a list of his faults. The reverend said, "I could add to the list." <u>Proverbs 25:11</u>: A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Mine eyes have seen the glory, Martin Luther King's Last Speech, April 3, 1968

• I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. And so I'm happy tonight; I'm not worried about anything; I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

The day after Martin Luther King's speech he was assassinated. He left a focus and inspiration by his dedication to a cause that was greater than him.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven. That is communication!

<u>Matthew 5:16</u>: (NASB) Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

In the first hour we covered three observations of Powerful Communication by looking at great, inspirational oratory speeches and drawing *one* key thought from each of them.

- 1: Abraham Lincoln, The Gettysburg Address: Powerful Communication is bold, but does not have to be blunt.
- 2: Winston Churchill: Powerful communication is truthful and tough, not traumatizing.
- 3: Martin Luther King: Powerful Communication is inspirational, commanding respect not perspirational, demanding attention.

All three communicators talked about the freedom of humankind.

We will continue with three more observations.



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8



This is important because sometimes we are in a situation where being inflammatory is very easy. There are many issues that can easily serve as tinder to set ablaze the fires of disquiet and anger. True godly communication can set the tinder of strife aside and instead kindle a fire of fellowship!

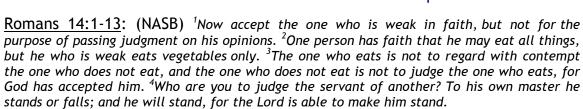
There is one communicator that really stands out in learning how to be informative and not inflammatory. This takes place the day Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated. Robert F. Kennedy is out campaigning in Indianapolis and he hears about the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. He is in a black neighborhood and he needs to tell the crowd what happened. He is announcing the assassination of this great leader. There was great rioting throughout the country that night.

(Given standing in the back of a flatbed truck in a black neighborhood in Indianapolis)

I have some very sad news for all of you and I think some sad news for all of our fellow citizens and people who love peace all over the world, and that is that Martin Luther King was shot and killed tonight in Memphis, Tennessee. Martin Luther King dedicated his life to love and to justice between his fellow human beings, and he died in the cause of that effort. In this difficult day, in this difficult time for the United States, it is perhaps well to ask what kind of a nation we are and what direction we want to move in.

In the early church, the tinder of strife also abounded! Diametrically different cultures were coming together under the banner of





Paul informs us of the pitfalls of being strong or weak - for the strong, contempt is the danger zone - for the weak it is the harshness of judgment upon those who seem to look down on you. Which is worse? They are both bad. The Apostle Paul is saying, stay away from both sides.

<sup>5</sup>One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. **Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind**. (He is informative, not inflammatory.) <sup>6</sup>He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; <sup>8</sup>for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.





Paul is saying they are all under that same umbrella. All the strong and the weak are standing convicted for God; so each is being faithful to their understanding of the principles of their calling and that is the important thing. Along similar lines, Robert F. Kennedy in announcing the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. had the same kind of a challenge to say, we are coming from different parts of society but we have a choice to make as a nation. How do we together want to react? What direction do we together want to go?

- (1)) Polarize or join, Robert F. Kennedy announcing the death of Martin Luther King, April 4, 1968
  - For those of you who are black, considering the evidence there evidently is that there were white people who were responsible, you can be filled with bitterness, and with hatred, and a desire for revenge. We can move in that direction as a country, in greater polarization, black people amongst blacks, white people amongst whites, filled with hatred toward one another. Or we can make an effort, as Martin Luther King did, to understand and to comprehend, and replace that violence, that stain of bloodshed that has spread across our land, with an effort to understand compassion and love.

He took this inflammatory circumstance and informed with great compassion and kept the area from rioting. There is a monument at that spot where he gave his speech. It is a remarkable testimony to great communication!

Sixty days later, Robert Kennedy was also assassinated.



The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Landmark for Peace Memorial is home to the Landmark for Peace Memorial sculpture that honors Robert Kennedy and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Romans 14:10-12: <sup>10</sup>But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God. <sup>12</sup>So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. <sup>13</sup>Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

Paul is saying, save your energy! You and the one you judge both stand before God! So, the Apostle here communicates with power the needed understanding to diffuse strife. Do WE communicate with such grace when under pressure? It's so easy to be reactive instead of proactive.

<u>Romans 12:9</u>: (KJV) Let love be without dissimulation (hypocrisy). Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.



#### What about communication when all that we stand for is at stake?



The previous four communicators spoke of the freedom of humankind. Sometimes we need to communicate to save a cause. Circumstances, predetermined perspectives and social pressures can pull apart even the most promising undertakings.

Another method of communication in our world is media and movies. There are some movies that stand out with great inspirational messages. "Remember the Titans" is one of these movies and is based on a true story. This was when desegregation of school systems was taking place in the 1970's. The movie is based on a true story. A high school football coach was given black and white players from two different school districts. They wouldn't get along or like each other due to predetermined ideas. The coach is trying to break through to his players that they have to overcome this nonsense, so he wakes them up at 3:00 in the morning and takes them for a run through the woods.

## Soldiers of Gettysburg, Remember the Titans movie (2000)

Anybody know what this place is? This is Gettysburg. This is where they fought the battle of Gettysburg. Fifty thousand men died right here on this field, fighting the same fight that we are still fighting amongst ourselves today. This green field right here, painted red, bubblin' with the blood of young boys. Smoke and hot lead pouring right through their bodies.





The pressures on the early church were so strong that there needed to be a coming together of the various groups to hash out their differences and come to an understanding to not only be able to co-exist but to co-labor.



Acts 15:1-31: (NASB) ¹Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved. ²And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue... ⁴When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses. ⁶The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. ⁶After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them...

Twice in this Scripture reading Paul and Barnabas had great dissention and debate with many about where the law fits with Christianity. They all get together and talk it out. This is communication! After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said something.

True focus allows for all parties to be focused - and *heard*.

## True focus hallows its origin and uses that origin to re-establish the direction of its true course:

Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup>And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; <sup>9</sup>and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup>Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup>But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are. <sup>12</sup>All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

Peter's observation was that there was no distinction between Jew and Gentile because they are all under Christ. He cleansed their hearts by faith. There is reasoning and strength here, but he is not forcing the issue. Peter is saying, "What are we doing putting the yoke of the law around their necks when we



cannot even bear the yoke of the law? Why would we introduce that when we see God has already blessed them?" He realized there were preconceived ideas. He was reasoning them through it. There is such great wisdom in the communication.

Powerful communication can reveal truth in a persuasive but not forced way, so the hearers can remain open to absorb and accept it!

Learn to play like men, Remember the Titans movie (2000)

• Listen to their souls, men. I killed my brother with malice in my heart. Hatred destroyed my family. You listen, and you take a lesson from the dead. If we don't come together right now on this hallowed ground, we too will be destroyed, just like they were. I don't care if you like each other or not, but you will respect each other. And maybe... I don't know, maybe we'll learn to play this game like men.

<sup>13</sup>After they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, Brethren, listen to me. <sup>14</sup>Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name. <sup>15</sup>With this the words of the Prophets agree... <sup>19</sup>Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, <sup>20</sup>but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood... <sup>22</sup>Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas—Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren, <sup>23</sup>and they sent this letter by them, The apostles and the brethren who are elders,... <sup>28</sup>For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials:..

Great communication can push through the imperfection of our circumstances and get to a place where we can all coexist and then co-labor. Victory is achieved when all parties really want truth!

Who was the world's greatest communicator and what did he tell us about leading a fulfilled life?

Jesus! The Sermon on the Mount was the number one communication.





Matthew 5:1-16: (NASB)

The Matthew 5:1-16: (NASB)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. The opened his mouth and began to teach them, saying...



<u>Matthew 5:3</u>: (Phillips) How happy are those who know their need for God, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs!

• True happiness begins by acknowledging who and what we are.

<u>Matthew 5:4</u>: (Phillips) How happy are those who know what sorrow means, for they will be given courage and comfort!

Sorrow can be a doorway to true happiness. True happiness recognizes
the real pain in life, caused by loss and imperfection and knows that
comfort in God will come - therefore true happiness produces peace.
Jesus is communicating how to live a truly happy life. This is about
personal fulfillment in Christ.

This next audio clip is from a movie based on a true story. It is about a young man who plays football for Notre Dame. He's not strong enough, not big enough or talented enough but he works and works and gets onto the practice squad. He never gets to play in a real game. He is graduating and is discouraged and feels like he is a failure. In this scene he is speaking with the groundskeeper of the football field.

## (1993) quit, *Rudy movie* (1993)

- Fortune: What you doin', don't you have practice?
- Rudy: Not anymore I quit.
- Fortune: Oh, well since when are you the quitting kind?
- Rudy: I don't know I just don't see the point anymore.
- Fortune: So you didn't make the dress list, there are greater tragedies in the world.
- Rudy: I wanted to run out of that tunnel for my dad to prove to everyone that I worked...
- Fortune: Prove what?
- Rudy: That I was somebody.
- Fortune: Oh you are so full of crap. You're five foot nothin', a hundred and nothin' and hardly have a spec of athletic ability and you hung in with the best college football team in the land for two years, and you were also going to walk out of here with a degree from the University of Notre Dame in this life time you don't have to prove nothing to nobody except yourself and after what you gone through if you haven't done that by now, it aint gonna never happen.



The groundskeeper is pretty wise. He is empowering Rudy and is taking all the excuses and discouragement out of the way. He's telling him, you are somebody!

<u>Matthew 5:5</u>: (Phillips) Happy are those who claim nothing, for the whole earth will belong to them!

 True happiness is the emptying of self so that one may be filled with the treasure of Christ-likeness and thereby inherits the earth! It is about what can I learn to be.

<u>Matthew 5:6</u>: (Phillips) Happy are those who are hungry and thirsty for true goodness, for they will be fully satisfied!

• True happiness is the deep pursuit of and focus on truth - pure truth - to understand it and teach it!

Matthew 5:7: (Phillips) Happy are the merciful, for they will have mercy shown to them!

 True happiness revels in the display of mercy for it knows that our need for heavenly mercy can only be met in proportion to our desire to give mercy freely! Jesus is saying this is how to live a fulfilled life.

## (1993) Regret, Rudy movie (1993)

- Rudy: So, I never got you to see your first game in here.
- Fortune: I've seen too many games in this stadium.
- Rudy: I thought you said you never saw a game...
- Fortune: I've never seen a game from the stands.
- Rudy: You were a player?
- Fortune: I rode the bench



for two years. Thought I wasn't being played because of my color. I got filled up with a lot of attitude so I quit, still not a week goes by I don't regret it, and I guarantee a week won't go by in your life you won't regret walking out letting them get the best of you. Do you hear me clear enough?

Fortune uses his personal experience with racism in his own time and uses that to say, "don't let what happened to me happen to you." He empowered with his communication.

Matthew 5:8: (Phillips) Happy are the utterly sincere, for they will see God!

• True happiness - true deep and abiding happiness can only truly be cultivated in a pure heart, for there it will never fall into contradiction!

<u>Matthew 5:9</u>: (Phillips) Happy are those who make peace, for they will be known as sons of God!

 True happiness deeply desires peace among all, for then happiness can reign over all - and there is no better happiness than happiness shared!



<u>Matthew 5:10-12</u>: (Phillips) <sup>10</sup>Happy are those who have suffered persecution for the cause of goodness, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs! <sup>11</sup>And what happiness will be yours when people blame you and ill-treat you and say all kinds of slanderous things against you for my sake! <sup>12</sup>Be glad then, yes, be tremendously glad—for your reward in Heaven is magnificent. They persecuted the prophets before your time in exactly the same way.

 True happiness can actually be expressed in persecution, if it is founded in the love and sacrifice of Christ, for our happiness emulates his "for the joy set before him..."

Rick's personal example of miscommunication and misunderstanding:

Rick was playing super heroes with his grandson. Domenic wanted Rick to be the villain "Toothpaste." Rick said, "Which one is that?" His grandson says, "You know, it's the guy who has one face on one side and one face on the other side." He meant, "Two-faced."

This is a silly but real example. Sometimes we take misunderstandings as truth and we go on. All we need to do is find out what the truth is and then recommunicate the truth of it.



**Observation 1:** Powerful communication is bold, but does not have to be blunt

**Observation 2:** Powerful communication is truthful and tough, not traumatizing

**Observation 3:** Powerful communication is inspirational, commanding respect - not perspirational, demanding attention

**Observation 4:** Powerful communication is informative and not inflammatory

Observation 5: Powerful communication is focused but not forceful

**Observation 6:** Powerful communication empowers and does not seek to entitle

We have learned this by observing those who have communicated in history and changed the lives of people. We have the same ability to change lives of people, especially from the standpoint of Christianity and to be able to stand for something. Communication is a key secret to better lives for all. Great communication starts with you, starts with your heart and mind. What you do with that is your choice.

So, are there secrets to better communication?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!

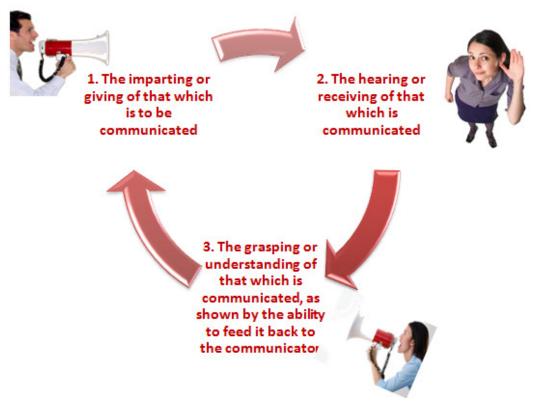
And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!





### Some practical points on communication

### True communication really has three parts:



### Be BOLD, TRUTHFUL and CLEAR in your communication:

<u>Matthew 5:33-37</u>: (NRSV) <sup>33</sup>Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord. <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

### Be FOCUSED, COMPASSIONATE and SINCERE in your communication:

Ephesians 4:25-32: (NRSV) <sup>25</sup>So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup>Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup>Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup>and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

**Communication:** Strongs #2842 koinonia (koy-nohn-ee'-ah); partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction

### Be OBSERVANT in your communication:

Galatians 2:9: And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship <2842>; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.



### Be PRAYERFUL in your communication:

<u>Philippians 1:3-5</u>: (NRSV) <sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your **sharing <2842>** in the gospel from the first day until now.

### Be WISE in your communication:

Philemon 1:4-7: (NRSV) <sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the **sharing <2842>** of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

### Be HUMBLE in your communication:

Hebrews 13:15-17: (KJV) <sup>15</sup>By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. <sup>16</sup>But to do good and to communicate <2842> forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. <sup>17</sup>Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

### Now, some fun stuff on communication:

With advances in technology and social media, Word of Mouth has truly gone to World of Mouth. Many companies centralize their global Facebook and Twitter efforts. This has huge advantages, but it's also imperative to have involvement at the local level; from people who truly understand the market nuances and language. We live in a global economy and so it's imperative that we understand our world. Below are examples of marketing translations gone wrong:

- 1. Clairol launched a curling iron called "Mist Stick" in Germany. Mist in German is slang for manure. It turns out manure sticks aren't very popular in Germany.
- 2. Gerber kept the image of its smiley baby on their jars and packages when they entered the African market. Only later did they realize, as a result of the low African literacy rate, many companies in Africa used pictures on labels to denote what's inside.
- 3. Pepsi in China translated their slogan, "Pepsi Brings You Back to Life." The slogan in Chinese literally means, "Pepsi Brings Your Ancestors Back from the Grave."
- 4. Parker Pen in Mexico wanted its advertisements to parlay "It won't leak in your pocket and embarrass you." Instead, the company thought that the word "embarazar" (to impregnate) meant to embarrass, so the ad read: "It won't leak in your pocket and make you pregnant." I guess it all depends on what you want out of a pen.
- 5. Pepsi lost market share in Southeast Asia when it changed its vending machines from deep blue to light blue. Light blue is a symbol of death and mourning in Southeast Asia. I guess soda is worse than we thought for you.
- 6. In Chinese, the Kentucky Fried Chicken slogan "finger-lickin' good" came out as "eat your fingers off".



- 7. An American T-shirt maker in Miami printed shirts for the Spanish market which promoted the Pope's visit. Instead of "I saw the Pope" (el Papa), the shirts read "I saw the potato" (la papa).
- 8. In Italy, a campaign for Schweppes Tonic Water translated the name into "Schweppes Toilet Water".
- 9. The Coca-Cola name in China was first read as "Ke-kou-ke-la", meaning "Bite the wax tadpole" or "female horse stuffed with wax", depending on the dialect. Coke then researched 40,000 characters to find a phonetic equivalent "ko-ou-ko-le", translating into "happiness in the mouth".





