

## That Personal Touch

An organizational consultant in New York says that his graduate students typically recall only 5 percent of the main ideas in a presentation of graphs and charts, while they generally remember half of the stories told in the same presentation. There is a growing consensus among communication experts about the power of the personal touch in relating an experience. While facts and figures often put listeners to sleep, an illustration from real life can motivate them to action. Author Annette Simmons says, "The missing ingredient in most failed communication is humanity."

Mark 5:1-20 gives the dramatic account of Jesus setting a violent, self-destructive man free from the powerful demons that possessed him. When the restored man begged to stay with Jesus as He traveled, the Lord told him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.' And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled" (vv.19-20).

Knowledge and eloquence are often overrated in the process of communicating the good news of Jesus Christ. Never underestimate the power of what the Gospel has done for you, and don't be afraid to tell it to others. (David McCasland)

### WDJD?

Not many years ago, we watched as the "WWJD" craze swept through the Christian community. The bracelet-emblazoned theme "What Would Jesus Do?" was a valuable reminder to many people that we should consider the heart and mind of Jesus when making choices. As we seek to live in a way that honors the Savior, it is appropriate to measure our attitudes and decisions against the example our Lord set for us.

Recently, a church had a sign out front with a slightly different message. This church's sign read, "WDJD—What Did Jesus Do?" That is indeed the more important question, because our salvation depends on it. Paramount among the remarkable deeds of the Son of God are the events described in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

What did Jesus do? He took the suffering and guilt for our wrongdoing and paid our penalty. He died and conquered death so we could live. And the fact is, we will never be able to fully consider what Jesus would do until we have embraced what He did do for us on the cross.

### **"There are Many Ways to get to Heaven"**

"...They did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2Thes. 2:10). A well-traveled preacher told of taking an airplane from California to Philadelphia one stormy night. It was late, but when the man in the next seat learned that the man sitting next to him was a minister, he wanted to talk. The man said, "I believe that going to heaven is like going to Philadelphia. You can get there by airplane, by train, by bus, by automobile. There are many ways to get to Philadelphia."

The preacher mentioned that when they started descending into Philadelphia, the place was fogged in. The wind was blowing, the rain was beating on the plane, and everyone looked nervous and uptight. "As we were circling in the fog, I turned to the theological expert on my right and said, 'I'm certainly glad the pilot doesn't agree with your theology.' He asked, 'What do you mean?' I replied, 'The people in the control tower are giving instructions to the pilot. 'Come in north by northwest, three degrees, you're on beam; don't deviate from the beam.' I'm glad the

pilot's not saying, 'There are many ways into this airport. There are many approaches we can take.' I'm glad he's saying, 'There's only one way we can land this plane, and I'm saying on course.'" Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). (From Contemporary Illustrations, p. 79)

### **Ten Commandments for Husbands**

Every wife knows soon after marriage if her husband is a True Prize, a Surprise, or a Consolation Prize. The following is written in the style of Scripture, but it is not a quotation from Scripture; although Scripture could be supplied to validate each one of the following points. Husbands, if you want to have a happy marriage, resolve to keep the following:

1. Thou shalt hold thy wife's love by the same means that thou won it.
2. Thou shalt remember that thy wife is thy partner and not thy property.
3. Thou shalt enter thy house with cheerfulness.
4. Thou shalt not allow thyself, nor anyone, to criticize thy wife; neither thy father, nor thy mother, nor thy brothers, nor thy sisters, nor any other relative, nor any friend, stranger, nor foe.
5. Thou shalt not take thy wife for granted.
6. Thou shalt not think of thyself as the center of thy home.
7. Thou shalt praise thine own wife; rise up and call her blessed.
8. Thou shalt not keep any secrets from thy wife; secrets breed suspicion and wreck confidence.
9. Thou shalt not fail to kiss thy wife at least every morning and every evening.
10. Thou shalt not forget through all the years of thy life that thy wife whom God hath given thee is to be cherished with love and respect. Out of honor, care, and love for her, thou must see that she takes precedence over thee. (Adapted by Doug Roush from an article by Hugo McCord)

### **"It Is..."**

Three statements by the Lord beginning with the words "It is..." offer us comfort, reassurance, and hope that Jesus is enough. The first is in Matthew 4 and is repeated three times: "It is written" (vv.4,7,10). In responding to the three temptations of Satan, Jesus gave us proof enough that the Word of God is true and overcomes the most powerful forms of temptation and pressure.

The second statement, "It is I" (Matt. 14:27), was spoken when Jesus told His terrified disciples that He Himself was presence enough to stop the howling storm and calm the raging seas.

Jesus spoke the third "It is" from the cross: "It is finished!" (John 19:30). He assured us that His death was provision enough to pay the debt for our sins and set us free.

Whatever our circumstances, Jesus is present with His love, compassion, and grace. He is proof, presence, and provision enough to carry us safely through.