

"SpeechLess"



Unedited Notes from 5/21/17
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Sometimes you need to put yourself aside and say things that you don't want to!
Story of Sean's failure to call for an ambulance after his friend was hurt in a sledding accident. He was unwilling to put himself aside and say the hard things [See Instagram pic from the Point [here](#)]

The Point: Less of Me Means More Speaking the Truth
Matthew 3:7-12

Humility: the quality or condition of being humble; modest opinion or estimate of one's own importance, rank, etc.

I. Calling 911: JtB Style

Disregarded his Position (v. 7)

- John spoke up, despite what it could've cost him
 - "Pharisees" - strict religious sect of Judaism [Poor Conservatives]
 - "Sadducees" - strict political sect of Judaism (Sanhedrin--Jewish ruling council) [Rich Liberals]
 - "baptize" Gr. *baptizo* - to overwhelm, immerse, be identified with

Addressed the Issue (v. 8)

- John spoke directly to their problem (he wasn't just insulting them)
 - "prove [by the way you live]" Gr. *poieo* - make, do, action (lit. "produce fruit")
 - "repented" Gr. *metanoia* - change of mind, turn the other way, repentance (see last week: John was calling Israel to turn back to God)

Challenged their Assumptions (v. 9)

- John then confronted their assumptions/preconceived ideas/wrong thinking
- The Pharisees & Sadducees assumed that their ancestry was "enough"...that actual repentance an obedience wasn't necessary

Warned of Consequences (v. 10)

- John showed them WHY they needed to change



Pointed to Jesus (v. 11-12)

- John directed them toward Jesus, b/c this wasn't about him
- The threshing process:
 - grain is cut and gathered onto the *threshing floor*
 - the grain is *threshed*, where a large *millstone* is rolled over the grain heads, breaking them open
 - the grain is then *winnowed*, where a pitchfork like tool picks it all up and tosses it into the wind. The good [heavier] grain kernels fall to the ground, but the lighter waste *chaff* is blown away by the wind and gathered up and burned
 - The grain kernels are then gathered up and placed in a storehouse to be used later

II. How to Say the Hard Things

See [Cropped "Accompanied" 01-22-17](#) for STEPS for Confrontation; the following is our ATTITUDE in Confrontation

Be Biblical

- 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- Our opinions... "what we heard..." "Dr. Phil says..." "I read on the internet..." , etc. CANNOT be the final standard from what it right.
- *Opinions are like noses: Everyone has one, and they all smell*
- We need to make the Bible the standard for addressing sin in other's lives

Be Gentle

- Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:15
- If you find confrontation to be easy/fun--you're doing it wrong!...that's why these are hard things to say
- Despite the fact that we are all imperfect and fall short, no one LIKES to be called out on it, so be Kind & Gentle
- ...do it in LOVE: not to be right, or prove yourself, etc.

Be Specific

- Matthew 18:15
- Jesus didn't say to point out everything that they've ever done wrong, or add your opinions about their cooking, or the way that they dress, or that annoying thing that they do with their throat... He said to point out THE offense
- Again, we all know that we're lacking, so be specific to fixing ONE issue at a time (PGDG intentional about this)



Be Encouraging

- 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- Because of our shortcomings, it's easy to become discouraged when someone confronts us with an error in our lives...
- When you confront, highlight the good things in the person/issue; emphasize what God HAS done; not being fake, just acknowledge that God is always working!

Be Immediate

- Hebrews 3:13
- Saying the hard things is NOT winning a court trial--you're not to spend weeks gathering evidence and then hitting them with everything that they've done wrong (ties in to "Be Specific" above)
- Our confrontation needs to be immediate and frequent (not walking on eggshells, but not ignoring it, either); no "list gathering" to build your case

and Point to Jesus!

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- You and I have NOTHING to offer anyone on our own; Jesus is the one who heals, restores, cleanses, fixes...
- We need to point people to Jesus (and be reminded of our own need for Him!)