

8 | GOOD COMMUNICATION #1



A good relationship is all about good communication. No communication or incorrect communication leads to disruption of relationships. The Father and Jesus both communicated well and clearly.

God is a communicator

For example, He communicates:

- John 3:16** (His love)
- Rev 19:7** (His passion)
- Heb 3:10** (His anger)
- John 12:27** (the purpose of why Jesus had to die)
- Matt 24:2** (His knowledge of the future)

With whom does Jesus share His heart?

John 15:14-17

Jesus does not tell everyone everything. He is selective in this. His disciples, the people who not only follow but obey Him, are hearing more.

Matt 17:1

Jesus tells stories, but there are also times when He tells the most intimate things to His confidants. There is a clear line in the life of Jesus if we take Him as an example of a good communicator. We learn a few very powerful lessons in communication from His life. Are you learning?

What is the basis of good communication?

John 1:1-4,10

(the Word was with God, everything originated from the Word)

Jesus was the Word and was with God. Jesus was one with God. Because of this, all wisdom and knowledge is in Jesus from the beginning. It even says that Jesus, the Word, is life.

- The Word is very powerful and can create. Things come about through the Word.

Luke 3:21-23

(God the Father confirms His Son)

Jesus knew who He was, He knew where He came from, and He knew why He had come to earth. This was because He was in union with God, which means that the words of God were regularly received by Him. Before Jesus spoke, He wanted to know what God was thinking. He wanted to learn and understand first.

- The basis of good communication lies in being connected with God. Having time with Him, getting to know Him, knowing what He thinks. Through this we learn who we are, we receive our mission in life and we also gain insight about other people. From there we speak. Jesus knew that His words brought life, but sometimes also separation. Do we realize that too?

1. Who was Jesus talking to?: His parents and family

Luke 2:48-52

Jesus thought it important to know what His father's will was. He also makes this very clear to His parents.

The lesson we learn from Jesus here is that He already knows who He is at the age of 12. Yet He submits to the authority of His parents.

Jesus listens to them until He grows up.

- Jesus communicates his dependence to his Father and He communicates His respects to His parents and remains under their authority.

John 2:1-5,12

Jesus begins His ministry on earth with miracles. In this story we see that the earthly family of Jesus also has a clear boundaries. When Mary, the mother of Jesus, wants to interfere in the ministry,

Jesus clearly says it. He knows He is dependent on God the Father, not His earthly mother. Now He and

- *His actions are determined by the words God speaks to Him, not what His mother says to Him.*

Luke 14:26,27

In this passage we see how important it is to Jesus that we put Him first. This applies to all of our relationships, including those who are most dear to us.

This seems disrespectful when you treat your parents, your wife and children like that. Still, Jesus sets the example for us to put God first. This does not mean that we should reject our family, send them away, or talk badly about them.

- *Jesus wants to be first in our lives, even above our parents, wife or children. He speaks about that clearly.*

John 19:25-27

Jesus does not choose against his mother, but for His heavenly Father. Mary knows this and continues to follow Jesus until His death. Because Jesus is clear about His dedication, He has not lost His mother. He even arranges for her to be taken care of after His death. The natural half brother of Jesus, James, also continues to follow Jesus after the resurrection and even becomes one of the leaders of the church in Jerusalem.

- *Choosing Jesus does not mean turning away from our earthly family.*

2. Who was Jesus talking to? His bride

Eph 5:25-27

Rev 19:7,8

Jesus came for a purpose: To establish the Kingdom of God on the earth. From the beginning of His ministry He spoke about this regularly. But there was another purpose and that was His future bride. In Revelation we read about a wedding for the Lamb of God. Jesus is called the Lamb of God. In His letter to Ephesus, Paul compares Jesus and the church to a man and a woman. In Revelation we see that the bride, the church, is clothed with linen, that is the

good deeds (JSV righteous deeds). This is again the link with the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Eph 5 shows how Jesus speaks to His bride out of love. He frees the people who are trapped in Satan's kingdom. By His loving words this "bride" is cleansed, comforted, built up and set apart. So much so that she feels completely beautiful. This love is reflected in how Jesus deals with all those people who come to Him. He never condemns them, even the most wicked people receive grace and love.

Jesus does everything He can to win His bride with words of love, grace and encouragement. He even goes so far as to want to die for this bride. He will do anything for her, EVERYTHING! He is very open with people and wants them to follow Him. There is never any coercion, He respects their choice. To follow Him is completely voluntary. Jesus went 100% for them. But He communicated very clearly that they must also go 100% for Him. It was His choice to sacrifice Himself for His bride, it is the bride's choice to give herself to Jesus.

- *Jesus speaks lovingly, out of grace, to those who belong to His future "bride". He doesn't discriminate against anyone who is bad or looks weird. Rather, He reaches out to the needy.*



GROUP EXERCISE:

Words have power. Discuss how that functions in your life. Prov 18:20, 21
Compare when there is death in your words and when there is life in your words.

Take time to focus on each person in the group one at a time and speak words of life. Think of things that are positive, texts that come to mind, thoughts that God's Spirit gives you for that person.

