



INSTRUMENTS IN THE REDEEMER'S HANDS

Lesson 9 – Speak I: Speaking the Truth in Love

Concepts and Objectives

- Concept: Confrontation needs to be rooted in the comfort and call of the gospel.
- Personalized: I must examine my life. Do the promises, provisions, and obligations of the gospel shape my living?
- Related to others: As I seek to help others examine themselves in the mirror of God's Word, I must be committed to encouraging and comforting them with the gospel.

Lesson Content

The Process of Confrontation (2 Corinthians 5:20)

- We must approach truth-speaking in personal ministry as God's representatives.
- As God's representatives, we must be careful not to combine what God has said with what we've always wanted to say.
- In rebuke, we want to incarnate the love of Christ by helping people to see themselves in the mirror of God's Word and calling them to accept responsibility for sins of their heart and behavior.

The process of confrontation:

1. Start with ourselves. Biblical truth-speaking always begins with dealing with our own hearts.
2. Understand why people need to be confronted. This will direct us toward the proper set of goals.
3. Speak with God's goals in view.
 - a. To be used as God's instruments of seeing in the life of another. To help people clearly see themselves in the mirror of God's Word.
 - b. To be used of God as an agent of repentance: A change of heart that leads to a change in the direction of our lives (Joel 2:12-13).

Our goal is that through the things we say (message), the way we say them (methods), and the attitudes we express (character), God will change their hearts.

Don't Leave the Gospel at the Door

- It is God's kindness that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4).
- It is the love of Christ that compels us to no longer live for ourselves but for him (2 Corinthians 5:14).
- We need to remind them of their identity in Christ (2 Peter 1:3-9; 1 John 3:1-3).
- We need to remind them of God's promise of forgiveness (1 John 1:5-10).
- We need to remind them of the amazing gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit who gives us the strength to obey (Ephesians 3:20).

Two Sides of the Gospel (Romans 8:1-17)

1. The comfort of the gospel (8:1-11).
 - a. Comfort 1: the work of the Lord Jesus has removed the sentence of condemnation that was on our heads because of our sin.
 - b. Comfort 2: the Holy Spirit, who lives within every believer to give us life, power, and the desire and ability to obey.

Other passages on forgiveness and the Holy Spirit:

Forgiveness: Micah 7:18; John 3:18; Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7; 2:1-8; 4:32-52; Colossians 2:13-15; 1 John 1:8-20.

Holy Spirit: John 14:17; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 4:6; 5:16ff; Ephesians 2:22; 3:16-20; 2 Timothy 1:14.

2. The call of the gospel (8:12-17).
 - a. Say, "no" to sin. We must not live "according to the sinful nature" any longer.
 - b. Say, "yes" to God. We must accept our sonship, realizing that true sons of God are those who are "led by the Spirit."

Our goal is that the heart would be changed by the work of Christ that the gospel declares.

1. Our goal is that the gospel promises of forgiveness and power would give people real hope of change.
2. Our goal is that the call of the gospel would cause people to accept responsibility for their sin and to accept God's call to obey.

Prayer Requests:

- That we would have hearts that are controlled by the gospel.
- That we would be winsome representatives of the gospel message.
- That we would all be instruments that God uses to communicate the gospel.
- That our lives would give visible evidence to the power of the gospel.

The Big Question: Is the gospel central when you speak the truth to someone?

CPR

Concepts

1. The purpose of confrontation is twofold: to help people see what God wants them to see and to lead them to repentance.
2. As we speak truth to people, we must not only bring the law to them, but the gospel as well.
3. It is the hope of Christ's forgiveness and the promise of His presence that draws us out of hiding toward confession and repentance.

Personalized

1. I must ask myself, "Do I confront others as an ambassador, or do I tend to advance my own opinion?"
2. Am I zealous to comfort and encourage people with the gospel?

3. Is my life shaped and directed by the comfort and the call of the gospel?

Related to Others

1. Do I look for opportunities to motivate people with the truths of the gospel?
2. Do I look for opportunities to function as one of God's instruments of seeing?
3. In moments of confrontation, do I want people to agree with me or turn to God?

Make It Real

1. Think of a time in your life (1) when you were rebuked and (2) you had to rebuke someone else. How well did these encounters fulfill godly goals? Now apply this to your Personal Ministry Opportunity. Have you begun with yourself? Are you moving toward the other person with a proper understanding of why he or she needs rebuke? Are you moving toward him with proper goals – to be an instrument of sight or an agent of repentance? Or are you going with ungodly motives: revenge, the desire to prove you are right and he is wrong, and so on? Pray consistently for love, honesty, and humility.
2. What do you dislike most about confrontation? How can a gospel perspective, as both a comfort and a call, help you move toward the person you have chosen as your ministry focus? Where do you need compassion and courage, honesty and humility, encouragement and candor?
3. Study three of the gospel passages that your group shared during the lesson. Write down the specific comforts and provisions that they offer the child of God. How can you use them to encourage the person you need to confront?