

Whachoo Say?

Rachael Martin 1,9,2018



**IT'S NOT WHAT
YOU SAY, IT'S HOW
YOU SAY IT.**

Proverb

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One of my Uber fares the other day reminded me that when I'm stopped at an intersection and the light turns green – to wait and count “1 one-thousand, 2 one-thousand, 3 one-thousand” before proceeding to move through the green light. It was right after we stopped at a red light and the car in front of us sped through the red light and we all held our breathe until we were sure he wasn't going to hit any cars that had the right of way.

He said he's been living long enough to know that doing that one simple thing, even if someone honks their horn behind him, has saved his life (and I'm sure others) – what's a hand gesture or yelled comment or the fact that someone else got away with committing a traffic violation? Is getting even with the offense worth more than doing what is right?

If you do what you are supposed to do and initiate the right thing, then the impact whether known or unknown is merited beyond words.

This brings me to my next point. The words that come out of our mouth.... I wish I had a dime for every time I've said “communication is everything” to someone. More often than not, we respond to something before we've given it a chance to filter through the “is this safe” line in our brain. It pays in the long run to say “1 one-thousand, 2 one-thousand, 3 one-thousand” before we utter a word, especially when what we want to say isn't going to produce a peaceful atmosphere. Is there a time and place for healthy criticism, tough love, and discussing views? Of course!

I could say “This pizza tastes interesting” and mean that it's got some different flavors but I like it because my facial expression is pleasant or I could say “This pizza tastes interesting” and mean that I think it's gross and make my face scrunch all up in disgust.

Whether we admit it or not, our tone has a TON to do with the way things are received by the people we are talking to. When Jesus was confronting the woman at the well about all the relationships she had been in or the rich man who wanted to know what he needed to do to inherit the kingdom of God, or even Judas who betrayed Him, do you think He had his nose stuck up and face scrunched up and finger pointed with hand on the hip in an accusation stance?

Friends, we have to own up to our actions, our words, our tone, our emotions, and even what's in our hearts – we have to realize that change is needed and we have to come to a point where we don't care what others do or say – because the Lord isn't basing His decision of “good and faithful servant” on the other person who made you mad... He's basing His decision of “good and faithful servant” on how you responded and if you looked to Him to help you filter. Did you show Christ-like love? When that person slapped you, did you turn the other side of your face and say – here's a fresh cheek?

Blessings as we continue to work out our salvation. <3