

Reading: Joshua 22:10-12

Topic: Growth & Good Communication

INTRODUCTION: There have been many conflicts and _____ that could have been avoided had only there been clear and concise _____ between people.

I. POOR COMMUNICATION:

A. In History:

1. When the famous ship the TITANIC sank, it had sent out messages asking for _____, but because the messages were not clearly received by the other _____ in the area, no immediate help came, and as a result, many lives were _____ which might have been saved had the messages got through.
2. In several different wars in history, battles were _____ because of poor communication between different units of the same _____, even with situations of friendly fire.
3. Wars have been started because of misunderstandings in _____ between nations and tribes, so poor _____ leads to trouble.

B. In Business:

1. Many years ago, the Coca-Cola company first introduced its soft _____ into China, they attempted to translate "Coca-Cola" into the Chinese language, but whoever did the translation work _____ a big mistake and in Chinese it came out as a _____ called "Bite The Wax Tadpole."
2. The Ford Motor company introduced a new _____ to the market in South America several years ago called the "Fierra" but when translated into their language it meant "an ugly old _____."
3. Needless to say, these products were not selling very successfully until a _____ was made in the name and then the communication of the product became _____ to the customers.

II. A COMMUNICATION LESSON:

A. Good Intentions:

1. When Israel had conquered the Promised Land under the leadership of _____, the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh had chosen to _____ in the land on the other side of the Jordan and dwell there because it was a very good land for their occupations as herdsmen. Josh. 22:1-4
2. They returned back to the property that Moses had allotted to them and _____ into the work and routine of daily _____, but with the Jordan River separating them from the rest of the nation.
3. Because they were separated from the _____ of the nation by the river, they were also separated from the tabernacle, the _____ and the other spiritual activities, so they made a decision to _____ an altar as a _____ to remind the people that they were still responsible to God and His law. Josh. 22:9,10

B. Misunderstanding:

1. When the news got out about what Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh were _____, the rest of Israel gathered together to go to _____ against their brethren. Josh. 22:11,12
2. Without any communication between the two parties, an assumption was made that was _____ wrong and it led to preparation for _____, and accusations were made that were also incorrect without any inquiries being made. Josh. 22:13-16

C. Communication Clarifies the Matter:

1. When the accusations had been made then Reuben, Gad and the half _____ of Manasseh gave the

explanation of why this _____ had been built. Josh 22:21-28

2. Their actions were not out of rebellion, but out of a genuine _____ concern for their children and future generations because of being separated from the tabernacle and the _____ on the other side of the Jordan River. Josh 22:29
3. When the rest of the tribes and the leaders heard the communication of the _____ for the altar, they were no longer _____ and ready for war, but were really _____ for the motive behind the building of the altar. Josh. 22:30-34
4. All of this strife, tension and possible _____ could have been avoided if only there had been some good communication between the two parties involved.

III. GOOD COMMUNICATION:

A. Jesus Teaching:

1. In life it is impossible to live without some misunderstandings happening between _____, whether it be in families, in marriage, in friendships or in _____ relationships.
2. Jesus taught that the first step to clearing up a matter is to have _____ with the individual or individuals involved – directly and not through telling the matter to a whole lot of other _____. Mt. 18:15

B. New Testament Church:

1. When Peter was sent by God to preach to the Gentiles in the _____ of Cornelius, the news reached the other apostles and brethren in Judea and they were very _____ with Peter. Acts 11:1,2
2. They made an accusation against Peter and spoke to him without ever _____ with him and asking for an explanation about why he did what he did. Acts 11:3
3. When Peter was given the _____ to communicate directly with them, he explained to them the details of how this all came about and the _____ communication resolved the conflict and tension that had arisen. Acts 11:15-18

C. Growing In The Art of Communicating:

1. There are a few good points to remember when it comes to avoiding misunderstandings through the art of _____ communication:
 - a. Never assume that everyone understands what you are _____ - you need to be clear in communicating what you are _____.
 - b. Never assume that everyone understands what you are _____ - you may have to repeat it more than once and in different _____ so that everyone understands what is being said.
 - c. Never to be too proud to say – “I’m sorry” when you offend someone because of miscommunication, for in most cases, you did not have malicious _____ - only good ones.
 - d. If you are the one who is offended by what has been _____ or _____, do your best to be prayed up and then go and _____ privately with the individual.

CONCLUSION: If everyone would be prayerful and wise, and practice good clear _____, then many difficult situations would be either _____ or resolved. James 3:16-18