

## **Di121 Effective Communication**

### ***Lesson Di121-29 Purpose: Moving Someone to Action***

The third and final purpose of good communication is to move people to action. Our God is always working to accomplish his will. He wants people to know, to feel, and to see his actions in the world. When Christians act in response to his love, more unbelievers will encounter the wonderful power of God in their own lives.

In the beginning, God acted to bring the world into existence. When God spoke, the world came into being. All that we see exists because of God's actions. It is God's desire that we as believers act to continue to bring his plan for this world to completion. When we obey him in this way we are fulfilling his will as beings created in his image and likeness. We should make every effort to bring his kingdom into the lives of those who do not know him. Jesus met the needs of people and moved them to become a part of his kingdom.

As Jesus was ministering in Jerusalem, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

The disciples asked Jesus about the reason for this man's blindness. The popular opinion of that day was that all sickness or infirmity was the result of sin and God's punishment. They thought maybe a sin of the parents was the reason for the son's blindness. Or maybe the child himself had sinned before birth and thus incurred God's judgment. But this is a very mistaken understanding of who God is and how he works. This is a lie from Satan.

Many people today lose their faith in God when something bad happens to them or to someone they love. They may pray, but God doesn't heal. Satan whispers that they are responsible for the tragedy because of something they said or did. The loving God we serve does not sit in the heavenlies with a big stick, waiting to strike someone if they make a mistake. If you fall ill, do not blame God or yourself. Feelings of guilt and condemnation do not come from God, but from Satan. We as God's children must trust him enough to realize that he often has a purpose in our circumstances that we cannot see. He is working all things together for our good and for his glory.

Jesus explained that neither the man nor his parents had sinned. The man's blindness had a much higher purpose. He was born to demonstrate God's actions on earth. Satan is the source of all sickness and evil. Because of him and the sin of the first man and first woman, we live in a fallen world. We are surrounded by the darkness of injustice, poverty, and disease. God is the only source of deliverance from evil. Jesus said he was sent to do the works of the Father. By his deeds Christ demonstrated he was the light of the dark world.

After saying this, Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam." The man went and washed, and came home seeing.

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

Jesus made mud and put it on his eyes. Then he gave him a command, an act to perform. He was instructed to wash in a certain pool of water. The man was left with a decision. Would he obey Jesus? Would he say to himself, "This will never work, mud can't make me see"? It was not enough to admire Jesus or know about his miracles. He had to make this decision and then act. His obedience in faith was the key to receiving his healing. His actions demonstrated his invisible faith in God, made effective through obedience to Jesus.

When he acted, then he was healed. After his healing some of his closest friends and neighbors did not recognize him. How was he healed? He was healed because he was changed by his faith in Jesus.

But he himself insisted, "I am the man." He knew he was the same man, even though his life was now totally changed.

"How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.

He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." He understood that he had obeyed Jesus, and through his actions he had experienced God's power to change everything for him.

"Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said. (John 9:1-12).

As John tells the rest of the story, we learn that the former blind man defended Jesus as a prophet from God, based on his action of healing. The religious leaders tried to refute the actions of God in the blind man's life, but could not. They tried to dismiss Jesus based on their theology, but they could not. The former blind man just kept reminding them of God's miracle act, by saying, "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" (John 9:25). After the Pharisees threw the healed man out of the temple area, Jesus came to him. The man said, "Lord, I believe, and he worshiped him."

The story ends with Jesus speaking about the spiritual blindness, or unbelief of the Pharisees. Jesus could heal the blind physical eyes; that was why he came into the world. But the Pharisees, who thought they could see, were actually becoming spiritually blind as they rejected

God's Son. They were amazed with how God had worked in this man's life. They could not understand why God answered Jesus, one they viewed as a sinner.

This story is **important** because it shows that God wants us, as believers, to not just know his Word, but to obey and act on his commands.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that God communicates his instructions to us in order that we might experience his power in our lives.

Let's **review** this lesson—

1. What did Jesus say was the reason that the man they met was born blind? [Pause]  
A. If you answered that Jesus said this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him, you answered correctly.
2. What was the key to the healing of the man born blind? [Pause]  
A. If you said, "The key was his obedience in obeying the command of Jesus to wash," you answered correctly.
3. What should be the final result of good communication? [Pause]  
A. If you said the final result of good communication is that it moves people to action, you answered correctly.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to memorize the story and tell it to someone who has not heard it before. Then ask them this question, "Why do you think effective communication involves the listener in action?" Answer: For a person's life to change for the good, they must begin to not only believe something different, but they must act on the new truth they believe.