

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Communication

"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." – George Bernard Shaw

"An orator or an author is never successful till he has learned to make his words smaller than his ideas." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Think like a wise man, but communicate in the language of the people." – Aristotle

"If it takes a lot of words to say what you have in mind, give it more thought." – Dennis Roch

"Good words are worth much, and cost little." – George Herbert

Webster defines *communication* as, "the act or process of using words, sounds, signs, or behaviors to express or exchange information or to express your ideas, thoughts, feelings, etc., to someone else."

In the process of communicating, we have a sender and a receiver. Not only must the sender use intelligible words but the receiver must also be listening and capable of understanding what is imparted. If you recall, Paul made a powerful point to the church at Corinth, "So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance. Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me" (1 Cor. 14:9-11).

One of the greatest lessons this author learned early on was put in the form of a simple saying. "Boys, put it down where the cows can graze." It was not intended as an insult, but as a guide in how to present the Gospel message. If the intended recipient has no idea what you are talking about, since you are speaking "over his head" intellectually, then nothing good has been accomplished.

Jesus used words and illustrations to make sure that His listeners understood what He was saying. Our Lord wanted to make sure He was communicating with His audience.

For example, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal..." (Matt. 6:19-21). Moth and rust were understood when it came to clothing and various metals. The illustration of the valuables in people's lives could be easily received. Jesus wanted them to lay up for themselves treasures in heaven where they could not be affected by such things (cf. Col. 3:1-2).

Strive to speak in such a way that people understand what it is you are trying to say.