

July 1 | Sunday

Communicating the Right Message

Read [Luke 7:36-8:3](#)



02 | Mon – The welcome mat...not! | Read [Luke 7:44-47](#)

Have you been in a situation where the person said one thing with words but attitude said something completely different? A Pharisee had invited Jesus to dinner but Simon's actions were not welcoming. In a culture where hospitality was paramount, the customary kiss (similar to our handshake of greeting) was missing and he did not offer to wash his guest's feet. What message was being sent? What do you communicate to a watching world?

03 | Tue – Looking at the heart | Read [1 Samuel 16:7](#), [James 2:1-12](#)

Most people would say equality, the idea that every person is created with equal value and worth, is a core belief in our society. Do you agree? It can be tempting to treat some people differently because they are poorly dressed or have a low-paying job or seemed less educated than how you would treat wealthy, famous or powerful people. It was happening in the early church as James records. What can you do to avoid this trap?

04 | Wed – Walk the talk | Read [James 2:15-17](#)

One of the biggest criticisms leveled at Christians today is regarding hypocrisy. Why do you think that is? James 2 gives us a clue. Is it possible to become so complacent about your position and security in Christ that there is no effort to help those you see around you in need? Will you allow the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to areas where you can grow so your actions more closely align with your stated beliefs?

05 | Thu – Ouch | Read [James 3:1-12](#)

Attitudes are revealed not just by the words that are said but also the *way* they are said. Here is an example of how the same sentence can communicate several different messages: **What** are you doing? What **are** you doing? What are **you** doing? What are you **doing**? If we are not careful, our tongue can get us into trouble. How has the Holy Spirit helped you learn to communicate in ways that build people up instead of unintentionally tear them down?

06 | Fri – Holding others in high regard in spite of... | Read [James 1:19](#) and [4:11-12](#)

The people who hurt you the most are sometimes those in your own family. It can also true of your church family. In any group of people who love God, there will be differences of opinion on some issues. The goal is to be able to discuss those differences respectfully without allowing to damage relationships. When feelings are strong and certain people do not agree with you, the temptation is to talk disrespectfully about them to others. James warns against slander. What helps you guard your words?

07 | Sat – Communicating the right message | Read [Matthew 22:36-40](#), [John 13:34-35](#)

The message Jesus gave has two points. First: God is good, God loves you and deserves your love in return. Second: God asks you to love others as much as you love yourself because God values both of you equally. Whether you believe these words or not is revealed -intentionally or unconsciously- through your words, facial attitudes and actions. What you really believe is how you will actually live. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any discrepancies.