



Lesson 7: Leadership Lessons from the Word

The Big Idea:

When Vertical & Horizontal Intersect

“You shall love the Lord your God...And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22: 34-39 (NIV)

Pamela Bosworth

In our lesson today, we are looking at a very interesting conversation that took place between Jesus and a group of Pharisees. It seems that Jesus had already silenced the Sadducees who tried to trap him with the marriage issue (vv.23-33). Now the Pharisees had gotten together pretending to be sincere as they asked him, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus knew full well that they were not open to **listening to connect**. They were only attempting to ask him what they thought was an unanswerable question. How shocked they must have been when Jesus summed up the law in one single command: Love God and your neighbor. Jesus addressed both a vertical relationship and a horizontal relationship.

Listening to Connect

Jesus- on the Cross of Calvary - is the perfect picture of the intersection of the vertical and horizontal relational connection. There is no other place where you will see a more vivid display of one’s vertical connection with God and at the same time a complete focus on the salvation of mankind horizontally

How does Jesus say you are to love God (v. 37)?

With all of your

With all of your

With all of your



Connecting With God (vertical)

God created man in his own image (Gen.1:27). This was the beginning of vertical relationships. In James 2:23 we are reminded that Abraham was called “friend of God”. This and other scriptures remind us that the God we worship wants a personal relationship with us. Our response to God is to **listen to connect**, seek to know Him, look to Him for guidance and follow in obedience.

DO LESS ...

Focus on what you want God to do for you.

Limiting God by focusing only on what you believe you know.

DO MORE...

Focus on what God wants to do with and in you.

Discover God in new and creative ways.

Make It Personal:

When are you most aware of God in your daily life?

Where was the place you last discovered God in a new way?

How might God be at work in your life through your circumstances?

Imagine for a moment that the cross on the hill is suddenly without the vertical portion. What happens to the horizontal part of the cross? It crashes to the ground, right? Your relationship with God affects your relationships with people around you. <http://www.intentionallyyours.org/>

◆ *My Notes* ◆



Connecting With Others (horizontal)

In the book, *Conversational Intelligence*, Judith Glaser reminds us that the quality of our relationships depends on the quality of our conversations. If we show up in conversations as judgmental, full of criticism, or simply trying to convince others to see things our way, we limit our ability to **listen to connect with others**. On the other hand, if we show up focused on what others are trying to say or what they are thinking, then we improve our ability to connect, navigate and grow with them. Consider the following steps to improve your skills in listening to connect.

SAY LESS OF...

“Here is what I think!”

“You don’t get it do you?”

SAY MORE OF...

“What are your thoughts?”

“If you had the answer, how might you approach it?”

Make It Personal:

Consider a recent conversation you had with someone that did not turn out as you expected and journal how you could use the say less of and say more of steps next time.

If you find your horizontal relationships strained, take the time to examine your own vertical relationship. <http://www.intentionallyyours.org/blog/2014/08/11/relationship>

◆ *My Notes* ◆



A Thought to Ponder:

Jesus was the greatest questioner ever. He was asked 187 questions in the gospels. He only answered 3. Jesus asked 307 questions so he asked 3 times more questions than he answered.

https://www.google.com/search?q=the+number+of+questions+jesus+was+asked+in+the+gospels&ses_tkn=ewlotddf

What Difference Would It Make:

A great start to honing the skill of **listening to connect** in our prayer life with God and in our daily interactions with others is to begin by asking meaningful questions.

How might I reframe this issue/situation?

How does my ability to trust (God/others) fit into this?

What might I be afraid of?

What assumptions could I be making and what if my assumptions are incorrect?

What would God’s best outcome look like?

Suggested Resources:

Conversational INTELLIGENCE®
by, Judith E. Glaser

◆ *My Notes* ◆