

"Influencers are Risk Takers"

December 4, 2016

CORE: Influencers are risk takers—they've learned the risks are worth it! It will involve risk-taking to influence our world with His Kingdom. And it's so worth it!

RISK TAKERS: **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

1. **CROSS THE STREET**

1 Corinthians 2:1- "...brothers and sisters, when I came to you..."

- Massive risk-taking was involved in this. Paul, "Pharisee of the Pharisees" (Phil. 3:5) (*i.e., by-the-book conservative Jewish leader travels to connect with the wildest-of-the-wild pagan Gentiles*)
- "Influencing" involves connecting with people outside our "comfort zone"
 - **"Comfort Zone"- (Def.) "a behavioral state in which a person operates in an "anxiety-neutral setting" using a limited set of behaviors to maintain a predetermined outcome, usually without a sense of risk"**
- Everyone in the NT came to faith by hearing the good news from another person. Always!

2. **LEARN FROM THEIR MISTAKES**

1 Corinthians 2:1,2- "...I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom...for I resolved..."

- Paul tried "eloquence" when he presented the gospel to the Greeks in Athens on Mars Hill (Acts 17). (PROFOUND, yet POWERLESS)
- A few people believed and received—for the most part, it was not a very fruitful approach.
- Paul, as a Pharisee, was very comfortable giving speeches.
- **"I resolved"- to sort through & come to a new conclusion** (*i.e., "Note to self—don't do it that way again!"*)—need the demonstration of HS's power

3. **FOCUS ON THE MAIN THING**

1 Corinthians 2:1,2- "...I proclaimed the testimony about God...nothing...except Jesus..."

- We overcome the awkwardness of talking about Jesus (*NOTE: Angry people say His name all the time; even more—shouldn't happy people?*)
- **Just because we've seen it done poorly** (*i.e., pushy, angry, slick*) doesn't mean we can't learn creative ways to talk about Him in safe, normal discussions!

4. **FACE THEIR FEARS**

1 Corinthians 2:3- "...I came...with great fear and trembling..."

- *"One of the worst things we could do is pretend that uncertainty and fear don't exist." -Brene' Brown*
- **There's a big difference between fears that make you WISE and fears that PARALYZE.** (*Comfort zones that keep us from obedience are ultimately DIS-COMFORTING!*)
- **"It's not what we DO that drains us—it's what we BELIEVE while we're doing it."** -Wendy Backlund

NOTE: HEALTHY FEAR lives in the revelation that "apart from Jesus" we can do "nothing" (John 15:5)—but we "can do all things through Christ" (Phil. 4:13)

5. **DEPEND ON THE HOLY SPIRIT (and demonstrate His power)**

1 Corinthians 2:4- "...with a demonstration of the Spirit's power..."

- **God is always at work around us—He simply invites us to join Him!**
 - Like the servants who carried the water jugs at Cana...
 - Like the disciples passing out bread and fish...
 - We are not called to "make something happen"—rather, we participate with Jesus in HIS MIRACLES.
- In His Kingdom:
 - Hungry—get filled
 - Humble—get lifted up (not "puffed up"; a new perspective)
 - Weak—have "His power perfected in them...when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:8-10)

CHALLENGE:

There's lots of FAVOR for "open doors"!

SEE **Colossians 4:3-4 TPT-**