

Lesson 5 | Wednesday, January 3, 2024

## **MIND YOUR KING**, lessons from Doy Moyer's Book, Mind Your King.

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When God made man He gave instruction: To Adam and Eve, To Noah, To Abraham, etc. When God made Israel His nation, He gave instruction through Moses. Today, the gospel message resonates with the brokenhearted. Yet when the message of the gospel is proclaimed in its fullness, it is God who reigns (c.f. Isaiah 52:7, quoted in Romans 10:15). And so, God is still giving instruction through the gospel:

*"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing **salvation** for all people, **instructing** us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13).*

This means we must be concerned with what He has instructed, what He wants, and what He commands. *Knowing God is knowing His Will and following it.*

*"This is **how we know that we know him**: if we **keep his commands**. The one who says, "I have come to know him," and yet doesn't keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him" (1John 2:3-5).*

John uses the terms commands and His Word interchangeably. This helps us see that all God has said on a matter to us is our command. And yet, John knows it has commands; it is plural – it is not just one command.

Today, how can we know what God wants from us in the gospel age? The New Testament writings convey the message once for all delivered to the saints so that we can know from those inspired writers what the will of God is (c.f. Ephesians 3:4). Implicit in this is that there must be a way for us to know what the King wants. And this lesson will focus on the basic communication works. If God has communicated His will to us, how does He do it? How one communicates their will is how God has communicated His. All we will do is recognize, in a logical and reasonable way, that God communicates to us the way we receive communication.

"Establishing Authority," no matter the nuance some may place upon it, is following the communication God has given. How will anyone communicate their desire? In fact, if you wanted to communicate to me what you want me to do, how would you do it?

- First, we tell others what we want. This is direct and can be an order or a statement.
- Second, we show others what we want and how to do it. Illustrations, examples, or models are part of this process.
- Third, we imply what we expect of others to get by what we say or show. This can be done through gestures or silence, depending on the context. When people "get it," then they have inferred from the implication {that we made} what we wanted them to get. For example, a principle might come from what we are told, and we may infer from the stated principle a proper application to our current situation." (p.34).

Tell, Show, and imply are self-evident truth of communication. Try to communicate without them. And if someone disagrees, ask them to express that disagreement without telling you, showing you or implying something to you. Any objections to these are self-defeating and illogical.

“This process of telling, showing and implying is not itself the method of interpretation. Rather, it is a recognition of how we get the raw data that then is interpreted. In other words, we start with the facts: what did God say? What has been shown? Then, we proceed to interpret these.” (35).

Where did our ability to reason and to communicate come from?

If this is how we do communicate – it will be how we as receptors of the information must learn to process it. Notice the communication that God made to Peter in Acts 10. Up to that moment, all Peter had known as a Jew was what his informed his actions: Jews do not associate with Gentiles (28). But this would need to change – and we should look how God communicated to Peter what His will was what He wanted to change.

**God showed him.** The very fact that it was a vision speaks to the method of communication we have discussed. Peter saw the sheet full of varying animals – some of which were unclean – and Peter responded with what he then knew, “I have never eaten anything unclean” (14). Even when Peter explains what God had communicated to him, he said, “God has shown me” (28).

**God told him.** God then responded and said, “What God has called clean, do not call impure.” The text goes on to tell us that “Peter was deeply perplexed about what the vision he had seen might mean” (17). And as Peter was considering what he had seen and what it might mean, “the Spirit told him, “Three men are here looking for you. Get up, go downstairs, and go with them with no doubts at all, because I have sent them” (19-20). God told him the vision was meant for that moment for the men who had gathered outside his door (18).

**God implied what he wanted Peter to infer.** God never said, “Call no man unclean.” Instead, he said go with these men. By the next day when Peter had arrived at the house of Cornelius, the Bible says that “God has shown me that I must not call *any person* impure or unclean. That’s why I came without any objection when I was sent for. So may I ask why you sent for me?” (28-29). Peter drew the inference required by what he had seen and had been told. Peter put all the pieces together and realized (i.e. inferred) the implication that the vision was making to him.

Through telling, showing and implying, God communicated His will to Peter. *The passage is included here to tell us how the gospel was finally introduced to the gentiles.* It is not recorded to teach us how to communicate (it already presumes we all do that anyway). **But it demonstrates how Peter came to understand the will of God that God communicated** – by showing, by telling and by implying. If God valued that process, what would we not?