

DAY 33: RESPECT

Respectfully speaking our mind in front of others is not as common as it should be; let's face it, most of us are afraid to speak up. We worry about what others will think of what we say or we are simply intimidated in settings where there is pressure and perhaps even hostility. So people walk over us, use us for a doormat or worse, use us to get what they want. This can happen in interpersonal relationships as well as in groups. However, when we begin to realize that relationships and groups don't function very well when people fail to communicate, we hopefully begin to speak up. We show respect for the other person and for the group when we speak our truth; by doing so we become an active part of the process and we demonstrate that we have a wholesome self-respect, but more importantly we show a respect for doing things the right way, we show that we are willing to compete for what we know is right.

Far too often people sit back and let things slide, let bad things happen, and fail to act. This is disrespectful to systems and relationships and is actually self-centered. For example, if we believe in and respect justice and truth we will be required to act to preserve and uphold them. Failure to do so is a lack of respect for these vital virtues and it wouldn't be going too far to say it's showing disrespect for all of mankind. Lastly, it shows a lack of self-respect, and for what reason? Because we don't want to get involved? Servant leaders get messy; they get in the middle of things and act.

WE DARE YOU TO...

Think of something, some situation, where you have failed to speak up for whatever reason. It could be with a friend, teacher, parent, sibling, boss, etc. Resolve that today you will say what needs to be said, that you will at least make it known that you believe something needs to change. It won't be easy. Easy is saying nothing. People will respect you for speaking up and you will learn to respect yourself, but most importantly you will be showing respect for what matters - people, community and truth.

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."
- Edmund Burke

*"Self-respect comes to us when...when we suddenly realize that,
knowing the truth we have spoken it."*
- Whitney Griswold





SAY WHAT NEEDS TO BE SAID

MAKE IT KNOWN THAT YOU BELIEVE SOMETHING NEEDS TO CHANGE



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