


# Two Principles that Release the Best in People

## Father's Day Service (2012)

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**Summary:** People are a gift from God. Right now in this room there could be someone who's a gift from God for you and you wouldn't even know it, but there is a way you can unlock it. Whatever you disrespect will move away from you, whatever you respect will attract towards you. We can become offended when people don't meet our expectations, and start to dishonour and disrespect them. Prejudice can stop you receiving people, pride is a terrible thing, causes us to judge, find fault, see the worst, and build a wall that stops you receiving. Were you discerning, or just didn't have enough love to celebrate them and receive them.

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## Two Principles that Release the Best in People

*Sun 2nd Sep 2012 PM*

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I want to share with you something that will just be a blessing for you. I want to share with you a couple of principles that can unlock the gift that is in the lives of other people. How many of you know you need other people in your life? You may not think so but you do need other people. In fact, actually God's designed it so we can't succeed in life without other people. I know you'd like to go it alone and it's just me and God, but people who become lone rangers like that become very weird strangers indeed, so life is not made for just living alone with God, just me and God. We actually need people.

In fact God sends people into your life. How many know that God brings people into your life that are the answer to what you need, or they have the answer to what you need? So once we get to accept that, and face that, here's the thing - if I believe that God brings people into my life to help me get where He wants me to get, well who are they, and how can I unlock it? The problem is, they don't sort of come along and say: well God has sent me to you to change your life, and help you succeed. How many have had anyone come up to you and say that? It just doesn't happen does it? So what happens instead is, we have a whole lot of weird and wonderful people coming in and out of our life, and the question is: which one came from God, and which one can help us?

So since you don't really know, the temptation is for us to miss the opportunities to unlock for our lives what God has for us. I learnt, I was in a church in Dannevirke, and God showed me the key a long, long time ago. Very, very simple, and I want to share with you two things tonight. They're things you can do, and if you would just see them as principles of the kingdom that work, and that they're right through the Bible. They're things you can immediately start to practice in your life, and it will start to impact your own life. It'll start to unlock what people have to give. It's interesting, it said: counsel lies deep in the heart of a man, but a man of understanding will draw it out. So you can have someone next to you, who may have exactly the wisdom you need to solve the problem you're facing, but unless you know how to draw it out, you'll miss it.

I have seen over the years, many people miss things. One of the things, when I went into the church that I ended up pastoring, I remember going in there, and God teaching me this principle very quickly. I was in a group that the Pastor worked with, but out of all the people in the group, I was the one that received the most from him. I got more than anyone else, and it's not that he had more time with me. It's not that he put a lot of time into me at all, but it was because of how I positioned myself in relationship to him, and I want to share with you those two keys. They're very simple, and they're found in scripture, and they're principles

that Jesus taught, and then I want you to begin to think about how you could apply it into your own life.

It works in marriages. It works in families, it works in a business, it works in school, it works everywhere in life. These are principles of the kingdom. It's how life works, so here's the thing. People are a gift from God, so right now in this room, there could be someone who's a gift from God for you, and you wouldn't even know it, but there is a way you can unlock it. I love what Brian was sharing; he made a lifestyle choice of generosity, and so the things I will share with you, they need to become lifestyle choices, that you'll actually operate your life according to these principles; and as you do, you'll find things will shift around your life. If you violate these principles, you will find many things that God intended for you will not actually happen, because you've literally frustrated it. I know that's hard to understand, but let me just show you.

We'll go to Mark, Chapter 6, and I want to give you the first principle. It's the principle of honour or respect. Whatever you disrespect, will move away from you. Whatever you respect, will attract towards you. To respect something means: to look at it, with a view of placing value on something. The word honour means to place value, so whatever you place value on will come near to you, whatever you devalue will move away from you. If you devalue a relationship, it will diminish; value a relationship and it will grow. So whatever you value or respect will come near to you, whatever you disrespect will draw away from you. Now you've got to get that. See the thing is, it's such a simple principle, but it actually works everywhere in life, and many marriages fail because of just that simple thing of dishonour and disrespect.

I know many Christians who have missed out on what God could have given them. Very simply, they just didn't respect and honour the people God brought into their life to help them. They actually rejected or despised the counsel that was given. Let's see the principle in operation, just so you can see it absolutely vividly in Mark, Chapter 6. Jesus went from there, and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come He began to teach in the synagogue, and many hearing Him were astonished, saying: where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! So notice what people are saying? They are amazed at the tremendous wisdom He has, as He teaches in the synagogue, and they have heard of the miracles He's done, and they are stunned by all the miracles Jesus has done; blind eyes opened, deaf ears open, the lame walked, people raised from the dead. They have heard of the miracles, and now they see Him teaching in their synagogue, and they are astonished.

Now, so they go from being astonished to this. It says: now isn't this just the carpenter? Isn't this just a carpenter, an ordinary carpenter? Aren't His family here, you know, the son of Mary, brother of James and Joses, and Judas and Simon? And aren't His sisters here as well? And they were offended at Him. It

says - notice this - it says, Jesus said to them: a prophet is not without honour except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house. Then He said: He could do no mighty work there. Now He could no mighty work there. He laid His hands on a few sick people who did receive Him, and respond, and honoured Him; He healed them, and He marvelled at their unbelief. Now here's the thing, the statement, an amazement statement: Jesus Himself could do no mighty work there.

Now I want you to see that in that town there were many sick people. There were many people with financial problems, there were many people in distress, there were many people who were demonised and tormented, many people. Now God's answer has just walked into the city. See, Jesus was the answer that God had for the needs they had, the need for healing, the need for deliverance, every need that they had, He had the answer for them, and the heart of God was to help the people, and the heart of Jesus was to help the people. This was His home town. He knew the people there, He knew the people that suffered from blindness, and deafness, and torments, and were demonised. He wanted to help them, so get this; He's anointed with all the power to help them. In His heart, He wants to help them. It's the will of God to help them, God has sent Him into that town - yet He could do no mighty work.

What that tells us, that even if Jesus Himself stood here in the room, physically in front of you, unless you meet the conditions required, you'll receive nothing. Now this is astonishing. What you've got to realise, it goes past that. Any person that God sends into your life, to help you in your journey to get where you need to get to, unless you respond to them properly, they cannot do any mighty work for you. Think about that. Think about over your life, all the people that God may have tried to send into your life to assist you, help you, grow you, shape you, influence you, challenge you, confront you, whatever; and because you didn't respond properly, God's work, or that mighty work through that person, was stopped. So that means that how you respond to a person can make the difference between whether what God has given them for you is released, or whether it is retained, or hindered, or locked up. Now that's extraordinary.

See, God brings people into our life, and connects us with people, to help us to get where He wants us to get. He has got a destiny for you. He's got a journey for you to take. There are issues for you to face. There is a personal growth journey you have to take, and for you to do that, God brings into your life the people that can help you get there. Now you may think: well I don't see that. I don't see it at all. Well get this, that if you don't respond rightly to people, then you shut down the ability of God to work in your life. Isn't that extraordinary! Now we would love to come into a meeting, and lift our hands and pray, and sing some songs, and ask God to do all kinds of wonderful things; but God sometimes sends people into your life to help you, and how you respond to the people He sends determines whether there is a release of God's gift. Remember, God's gift is always a person. We tend to think of the gifts of the spirit, but what we forget is,

actually we tend to think of gifts. Actually what you get is the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit reveals Himself in various ways. We call those giftings, but actually the gift is the person.

You think about the answers, well people need healing. No, actually God gives the gift of Jesus the healer. People need peace, God gives Jesus the prince of peace. When you have Him, peace comes. When you have Him, healing comes. When you have Him, deliverance comes; but the whole thing is receiving Him, and so He could do no mighty work. Now why was that? Very simply, they dishonoured and disrespected Him. It's as simple as that - dishonour and disrespect shuts down the flow of the gift of God into your life from another person. In fact, this is so important a principle, that God says there are two people - the first one is your father and your mother, your father and your mother - God says: if you will honour them and respect them, then you will live long, and life will go well for you. In other words, what it's saying, if you learn to treat the first representatives of God in your life with honour and respect, then it guarantees you will release into your life wisdom from God, to help you grow in your character, and prepare you for life.

You think of why so many young people go off the rails. It's simply this; they actually disrespect a father, or disrespect a mother. They rebel, because they disrespect them. See, once you've disrespected and dishonoured someone, then it will create the excuse for you then to reject what they have to give into your life. So an example, I've seen in families young people, I've seen in a family with an unsaved father, he had wisdom that would have protected the child, but because they despised him because he wasn't a Christian, his wisdom was rejected, and the child got into trouble. I've seen it over and over and over again. Respect and honour will release for you what that person has gifted by God for you, and when it comes to authority in our life, or people God puts over us, this is one of the vital principles. So you think about this; you go everywhere, you hear people running down their boss, they're criticising their boss. What that means effectively is, that everything God intended to bring into their life through that boss is blocked, because of the attitude of disrespect.

Where did you learn that? Well you learnt that disrespect for authorities in the realm of home and family with parents, so God says specifically: there's a promise with respecting and honouring, and placing value on your parents, and their opinions, and their counsel, and their advice. When you do that, there is a blessing will follow through your life, and it'll affect your choice of marriage, it will affect your relationship with God, it will affect your relationship with your teachers, it will affect your relationship with your boss, in fact it is going to affect every major authority relationship right through your life. It will either release protection and wisdom for you, or it will shut it down.

I was at a point in my life as a young Christian, and I just was inexperienced, and felt that something was a leading from God. I made a decision I was going to quit

my job and go up to Whangarei, and going to go up to a ministry up there, and we were going to be involved with him, and blah blah blah. So I got the whole process even rolling, and then my Pastor came to talk to me. We had a talk, and I realised that I had disrespected his counsel in my life, and disrespected him by not at least sharing with him such a major decision - not that he would tell me what to do, but that actually, he would have a part in me making such a big decision. When I realised God spoke to me that I had done that, I became dismayed in my heart, and he challenged me whether I'd done the right thing, and pointed out one or two things. After he'd left I was just left in shock, and I was faced with a choice: will I respect what he has in his life, and receive it; or will I actually follow what I'd determined to do?

I went into some shock for a few days over that one, and I made a decision I would honour and respect the gift on his life. Now there were many reasons why I could have not respected him. You notice in the story with Jesus, there are two reasons that people disrespected Him. The first one was familiarity. Isn't this the carpenter's son? What would the carpenter know about God? I mean, what would a carpenter have to do? In other words, familiarity - they were so familiar with Him, He'd grown up in their area, in their town. They knew Him, and they become familiar with Him, and when you become familiar with a person, it's easy to lose sight of what God has in them to give to you, and through disrespect, familiarity breeds disrespect, and disrespect shuts down the gifts that God has in people for you. Ask yourself this: is there any person in my life that God has made as a gift to me, and I have disrespected them, because I've become familiar? I've taken them for granted? I've taken the person for granted, what they have to give me for granted, and I've treated it lightly. That's what it means is to place little value on it.

This certainly shuts down what they could give to you, so I made the decision at that time - you notice with Jesus it said: they were offended at Him, so the first thing is familiarity; the second thing is offences. We become offended when people don't meet our expectations. We become offended when things don't work out like we expect them to work out, and we can become offended with God very easily, when He doesn't answer things the way we want. We can become offended with God, we can start to dishonour God and disrespect God. Now here's the other thing the Bible tells us clearly" not only has He put a promise that honouring your parents things will go well for you, here's a second thing. He explains specifically, in two places in the Bible, that to access His presence you must come with honour and appreciation and gratitude, you know, enter His gates with thanksgiving, enter His courts with praise. Honour is the doorway into His presence; and dishonour, Romans 1:21, takes you out of His presence, and causes you to not see what He's trying to do in your life. This is a very, very important principle.

So I made the decision I would respect the Pastor's wisdom and counsel, and then I was left in a very, very terrible tight spot. I decided I would trust God, that if

I listened to counsel and submitted to that counsel, then He would work it out. I won't give you all the details of it, that's for another time, but what happened was, I ended up with a promotion, and life started to go extremely well, in a new level of blessing in my work. It was because I just respected godly counsel, and respected the person, and their insight into my life, and to what was right for me. That's happened on more than one occasion, and I tell you, it took quite a humbling to do that. It was just a matter of saying: I respect what this person has to say, I place value and weight on it, and I place value and weight on him. Therefore I will receive it, and I will respond to it - and it saved me. Now just the end of it, without going too far, two years later that ministry that we would have gone and followed went totally off the rails, went into major deception. His marriage broke up, and the whole ministry, it was a disaster - whereas two years later I was set in position to start and pioneer a Christian school, and eventually within a year of that, become Pastor of the church.

Now it's a key principle. I can tell you this over and over and over again, so there it is. Very simply, Jesus was disrespected and dishonoured, because of familiarity and offence, so they recognised what He did other places, but they didn't realise He was God's answer to them. Now without me going into lots of examples of this, let me just give you just a couple of things to think about here. It is very easy to just dishonour and disrespect people that God brings around your life that could help you, because we just don't see them as God's answer, and it takes faith to see that every person God brings around you has something to give to your life. If you just think well, actually I don't really need people, and they're a bit of a nuisance, you miss that people are actually part of God's way of enriching our lives. I've found there's always something I can learn off any person. Here I have, been a Pastor for all these years, but I can learn something off the youngest Christian. I can learn something about God that I didn't know, just if I will respect that person, and honour them, and treat them as someone of value, and maybe God has got something in their life that I could draw from and learn. It's all in the attitude, so think about that - they didn't see He was God's answer.

Now here's a thing, men particularly need respect. Of all the needs, God's wired a man so men need respect; women need love. Women need to be pursued and loved, men need respect; so when men are disrespected, the gifts in their life shut down. So in marriage and family where there's disrespect, then what happens is, the gifting shuts down and men withdraw, shut down. Many marriages are in trouble, really simply for one reason, because of criticism and disrespect; whereas respect would have opened up and allowed the gift to be unlocked like a passage, honour unlocks the giftings that are in people's lives - a very simple principle this, not very hard. Let me give you a few examples in the Bible.

Here's one. One example is Miriam. Miriam was Moses' oldest sister. One day Miriam looked at Moses and thought well, he might be a mighty man of God, and think he's something else; but he's marrying that black woman, and I don't like

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