

Bold Conversations

Facing Giants – Series

Ps. Unia Kiima – 17th July 2017

Sermon Notes



As we continue with the series **Facing The Giants**, today we look at the topic **Bold Conversations** also called **Real Conversations** or **Hard Conversations**.

Quote: Personal growth starts in your real life with the real conversations you are not having.

Ephesians 4: 14& 15

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: {speaking...: or, being sincere}

Speak the truth in love

James 3:13- 4:6

Why is so difficult for us to have bold conversations?

We Fear and get scared because:

1. **We presume we know how its going to play out:** We think we know what's going to happen: **The truth is you can never know how the conversation is going to play out.** This can either make us pretty anxious or apprehensive. **We feel exposed and vulnerable** which makes it a Giant in our eyes.

Most of us have had a conversation with ourselves in our heads for a while before we decide to come out with it. And in our mind the conversation does not get resolved actually it does get worse. These usually make us forget the value of the relationship by making the other party a pawn in our game with no voice, no opinion or input on the subject.

2. **We are afraid of the other persons reaction**

What they will say? Will the information be too much for us or expose our vulnerability, they will call me wiseacre: If you are the one initiating the conversation, they may hate me: If the information is too personal, I will not fit in: After I share the information. I shall be welcome anymore; I will not make it alone. As a consequence after the conversation. If you need to make the decision to part ways especially in a business partnership or relationship.

It leaves us very exposed, vulnerable and with a feeling of neediness that we usually would rather avoid.

What do we naturally resort to?

We convince ourselves that it is safer to **avoid hard conversations, ignore the issue or try to forget about it.**

- **The Passive path:** Peacekeeper rather than peacemaker; you allow for false peace at any cost.
- **The evasive path:** Avoid dealing with the deep issues. You pretend it is well.
- **The Defensive path:** Protect oneself. Coming off as the right one with no fault.
- **The Aggressive path:** Destroy the other person because we fail to forget about it and instead go around bad mouthing the other party.

People are afraid of confrontation

How does the bible say we should handle these situations that need to be confronted?

How should we handle bold conversations?

1. **Begin with the goal of reconciliation:**
Through the bond of peace.

The motive/goal should be reconciliation. Why do you want to have the conversation, what is your motive and goal. The goal has to be reconciliation all the time, healing and growth. It's never to win, to be right, to stick it to them these are all wrong motives. James 5:16... confess your sins to one another. That you may be healed. God is in the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Cor. 5:11-21. You do not have to agree to be reconciled. The end goal for you has to be the relationship and that must be communicated clearly. The person needs to know that you're doing this in honor of the relationship. Not to vent, blame or trying to get away with it.

2. **Have direct one-on-one conversation:**
Through Wisdom

You must set up a time, call and make an appointment and open your mouth and say what you need to say. Do not be spontaneous, Plan the conversation and be prepared. How did it make you feel? What about it offended you? Why?

3. **Seek to understand rather than be understood:**
Through humility.

Listen to the other part and hear them out. You may be surprised at how they got there, why they did what they did and their thought process about the issue. Give the person a chance to speak and share their view and side of things. Be respectful of their feelings too because this involves them too. Try and understand their angle. Allow for the fact that you might be wrong.

4. **Allow time for others to process:**
Through Selflessness.

Give them time to come to terms with the whole issue. Some information shared may be new to the person or hard to hear. Allow them time to process.

5. **Commit to doing your part and leave the rest to the Lord:**
Through Surrender:

As far as it depends on you leave at peace one with another. You do your part and leave room for God to deal with the details. Sometimes the undercurrent is too strong and it's going to take time. Leave that to God. Whatever you do, do it respectfully and in honor the person will hear it. Choose peace and reconciliation.

Take out:

- Gain courage to have some bold conversations at work, in the family, in the LG rather than wait things out.
- Gain an attitude that works towards peace and reconciliation rather than just fighting to win.