

MANAGEMENT MEMOS
Avi Snyder, European Director of Jews for Jesus

(A typical, middle-management-looking person takes the podium and addresses the group)

Thank you, Vincent. Thank you, Jerome. James, nice to see you. Looks like you're adding a couple of tires around the equator, huh? You oughtta get out in the field more, burn that off. Okay, everybody, listen up. I got some information that's come down from the top, and I will appreciate, as ever, your undivided attention. Louis? Louis! Undivided attention.

Now, as you know, the Father wants the territory expanded. He wants to make sure that the Name of His Son is known to all the ends of the earth. But I gotta tell you, He's not exactly overjoyed with the progress we've been making. So He's thinking that maybe we need to go over some of the basics and do a little re-tooling before we go back into the field. Now what I got here are a bunch of original dispatch memos and directives that He wants me to go over with you guys. So, listen up, because I don't wanna have to be here all day.

Okay, memo number one. "From Management, to labor, regarding qualifications for service"

(Disconcertedly)

Yeah, I remember this one. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbors and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you." Furthermore, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are from Me, if you have love for one another."

(Shakes his head despondently, then continues...)

Okay, so here's what we're gonna do. Everybody stand up. Come on, come on, everybody stand up. Whatta matter, you need a personal, engraved invitation? Francis, take your hands outta your pockets, this is serious. Okay, now, I'm gonna say to all of you guys, "I love you guys," and you're gonna say to me, "We love you, too, Carmine." Hey, you know, I don't like this anymore than you do, okay? Okay. So here we go. I love you guys.

(Waits for response, then. With obvious disappointment...)

Sit down. Okay, we're gonna have to work on that one.

All right, memo number two. "From Management, to labor, regarding the message. Let everyone know that, having overlooked the times of ignorance, the Father is now calling everybody everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day when He will judge the world in righteousness through His Son. And He has furnished proof of this by raising Him from the dead."

Okay, now listen. In a nutshell, the message is “Turn around, because the Son is coming back.” Now, I shouldn’t have to be telling you this, but unfortunately, I’m hearing that a bunch of you guys are sending out a different message. For example, some of you think the message is “Comfort, comfort, everybody feel comfortable” Listen to me, Mr. Downey-Fabric-Softener. The message is not comfort. The message is, “Turn around, because the Son is coming back.” And who’s the druid with the crystal ball, saying, “Everybody back to the Land, olley-olley-ox-in-free.” Listen to me, you’re not in the moving business. You’re in the messenger business. You understand the difference? No? Okay, Sherlock, lemme explain this to you. Your average Joe from local 234 in a warzone like south Philly is gonna give an answer for himself when the Son comes back. If you help him move from south Philly to a garden spot like Hobokn NJ, he’s still gonna give an answer for himself when the Son comes back. Where he’s living is not the issue. Whether he listened to the Son, that’s the issue.

Okay, so you got that? The message is, “Turn around, because the Son’s coming back.” Let me say that one more time slowly for the college boys. “Turn around, because the Son’s coming back.” What’s the message?

(Waits for them to repeat the phrase. Then..)

Very good, everybody gets a cold star.

Memo number three. “From Management, to labor, regarding what you can expect. I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore, be shrewd as serpents but gentle as doves. Beware of people, because they will deliver you to courts, and to committees and to investigations, and you will be hated by everybody because of Me.”

Now, let me stop right here a second. I know that some of you guys are thinking, “Uh-oh. That’s not good. What if people don’t like me?” Listen to me, Einstein, people already don’t like you. They don’t like *you*, because they don’t like *Him*. What, you think you’re better than the Father or the Son? You think you deserve some kind of special treatment? You think it’s fine that Him they hate and mock and treat like a piece of yesterday’s cold fish, but you they gotta love and respect? Who do you think you are? Tell you what. You want everybody to like you? Sell upperware. Everybody loves Tuperware.

(Reading again from the memo...)

“What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

(Addressing the audience again...)

Now, I’m guessing that some of you guys are thinking, “Maybe this speaking out isn’t such a good idea.” Well, I got an addendum here just for you.

(Reading...)

“When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die,’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand.”

(To the crowd again.)

Would you like to know what that means? Let me tell you exactly what that means. I don’t know. And I don’t ever want to find out.

All right, let me wrap this up. The message? Simple. “Turn around, because the Son is coming back.” How will people respond to us? Just like they responded to the Son. How do we deal with them and with each other? With love.

(Putting the memos down). One more thing. Now, this isn’t exactly a directive from the top, but I think I got the same mind as management on this. At the end of the day, if we don’t have love, you know what we got? Bupkis. What, you laugh, but this is serious, and I’m talking to you straight. You know, we can write a million books, and we can play a million songs, and we can speak at a million membership meetings. We can be so well known for everything we do that we get our names written up in the hall of fame’s witness protection plan. People can think we’re the best thing on the scene since sliced bread. But if we don’t have love, it’s bupkis. You know, it’s gonna be a sad day when we stand before the Son, if we look back at the end and discover that as far as He’s concerned, the only thing we got to show for ourselves is bupkis. Just a little friendly advice, no extra charge.

(Looking aside)

Okay, Louis. I’m done. You can wake up now.

(To all)

Have a nice day.

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