

STOP WHINING-START WINNING

Part Four

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people?
Who will go for us?"
I said, "Here I am. Send me."
Isaiah 6:9 New Living Testament

I. A Gift For You: A Message to Garcia*

*A booklet containing the essay was given to everyone in attendance today

A. Discovering a Buried Treasure

1. Fifteen years ago I stumbled upon a list of the top ten most widely distributed writings in history in Grolier's Encyclopedia.
2. Some were not surprises: The best-seller of all time is the Bible, almost 3 billion copies.
3. But it was #5 on the list that attracted my attention because I'd never heard of it!
4. A few search clicks and I discovered that "A Message to Garcia" wasn't a book at all, but a three-page essay, published in 1899, written by a man named Elbert Hubbard who later drowned in the tragic sinking of the Lusitania in 1915.
 - a. This remarkable little work was eventually translated into 37 languages!
 - b. It was given to every man who enlisted in the Navy or Marine Corps in both World War I and World War II.
 - c. Many schools required it to be memorized by their students.
 - d. But most of the copies were purchased by American businessmen to give to their employees!

5. How could this be the 5th best-selling writing of human history?

B. A Message to Garcia: Back-Story

1. In 1898, the United States was involved in the Spanish-American War.
2. President McKinley urgently needed to communicate with a Cuban General named Garcia, who was hiding *somewhere* in the mountain ranges of Cuba.
3. The problem was HOW do we get a message to Garcia? WHO can we send? Who can we trust to get the job done?

Someone said to the President, "There's a fellow by the name of Rowan who will find Garcia for you, if anybody can!"
Message to Garcia, p. 1

4. Andrew Rowan, a soldier graduate of West Point, took the letter, found Garcia, and delivered the letter, mission accomplished.

5. Here, Hubbard comments:

How (Rowan) took the letter, sealed it up in a (waterproof) pouch strapped over his heart, landed four days later off the coast of Cuba in an open boat, disappeared into the jungle and came out three weeks later on the other side of the island, having crossed the entire country on foot and delivered his letter to Garcia, are things I (will not attempt) to share in detail...

Message to Garcia, p. 1

6. No, the inspiration of the article didn't come from the details. It was in the fact that the man DID THE JOB without asking "HOW?"!!!

(Rowan) did not ask, "Where is he?" By the Eternal! There is a man whose form should be cast in deathless bronze and the statue placed in every college of the land. It is not book-learning young men need, nor instruction about this and that, but a stiffening of the (backbone) which will cause them to be loyalty to a trust, to act promptly, concentrate their energies: do the thing-carry the message to Garcia!

Message to Garcia, p.1

7. Oh, you're going to want some more copies of this! Every child, every student, every young person, every mom and dad, every factory worker, every boss, supervisor or job-holder ought to be given a copy and memorize it!

8. There is a WEALTH OF WISDOM in this little essay, but I want to pull three principles out of it.

II. The MAN, the MISSION, and the MEMO

A. The MAN

1. When they needed something done, they called for a man with a REPUTATION for getting things done!

"There's a fellow named Rowan...He'll find Garcia for you if anybody can!"
Message to Garcia

- When Mom and Dad need something done, can they send you?
- If the Boss had an urgent situation, would your name come up?
- Are you the one counted totally trustworthy?
- Do you show up? On time?
- Do you do what you say you will do? Every time?

2. People who have analyzed the essay say the primary principles communicated here are: SELF-RELIANCE and ENERGETIC PROBLEM SOLVING.

- a. Self-reliance means an ability to get something done without bothering everyone else.
- b. Energetic problem-solving means you tackle every job with an overcoming attitude.

3. Stop whining-start winning!

a. Cultivate the “can-do” spirit! Be the person people call on because they know you’ll get it done!

b. Homework:

- Read the essay
- Ask the self-analysis question: Am I the one they would call on?
- Do a personal “360”-Ask the authority/accountability figures in your life about your “reliability rating” on a scale of 1 to 10.

B. The MISSION

1. There’s always a “mission”, always a job that needs doing, and every one of them comes with a set of obstacles and problems!
2. There is no such thing as a job or mission minus a mess to fix!
3. Here’s a principle you need to get deep into your spirit:

POWER IS GUARDED BY PROBLEMS!

4. Everybody wants a promotion; everybody wants more power, freedom, and influence.
5. But God surrounds power with problems, so that PROBLEM-SOLVERS get PROMOTED!!!
6. Too many folks don’t realize that the problems faced on the job or on getting something done are the very reason they have a job in the first place!

My Boss once said to me, “If I didn’t have problems, I wouldn’t need YOU!”

We have recently been hearing much...sympathy expressed for the “downtrodden denizen of the sweat shop”, and the “homeless wanderer searching for honest employment, and with it...so many hard words for ...men in power.

...(Yet) nothing is said about the employer who grows old before his time in a vain attempt to get lazy ne’er do wells to do intelligent work: (nothing is said) about his long patient striving with “help” that does nothing but loaf when (the boss’s)back is turned.

...I know one (really brilliant) man who has the ability to manage a business of his own...and yet is absolutely worthless to anyone because he carries with him the insane suspicion that his employer is oppressing...him...

Tonight, this man walks the streets looking for work (in a) threadbare coat. No one who knows him would dare employ him, for he is a...fire-brand of discontent...
Message to Garcia, p.3

7. Winners accept that problems are part of the process; whiners use problems and obstacles as excuses for not getting anything done!

...this *incapacity for independent action*, this moral stupidity, this infirmity of the will, this unwillingness to cheerfully catch hold and lift...(put victory) so far into the future...
Message to Garcia, p.2

8. We must ask ourselves if we have an “incapacity for independent action” lurking about our lives!

9. If we shrink back from the pursuit of this kind of weight-bearing, how can we hope to win the world?

C. The MEMO (A Message to Remember)

1. Do you have any idea of how *valuable* the man is who can deliver the message to Garcia?

My heart goes out to the man who does his work when the boss is away, as well as when he is at home. And the man who, when given a letter for Garcia, quietly takes it...without asking any idiotic questions and with no lurking intentions of throwing it away.
Civilization is one long anxious search for just such individuals. Anything such a man asks for shall be granted; his kind is so rare that no employer can afford to let him go. He is wanted in every city, town and village—in every office, shop, store and factory. The world cries out for such: He is needed and needed badly—the man who can carry a message to Garcia.
Message to Garcia, p.4

2. We need an honest self-appraisal:

- Am I the MAN people think of when a job needs doing?
- Am I the man who accepts the MISSION without asking a bunch of questions I ought to be figuring out for myself?
- Is there a MEMO in my heart about a commitment to cultivate character qualities of self-reliance and energetic problem-solving?

III. Who Is God Looking For?

A. The Gospel of the Kingdom: Our Own Message to Garcia!

1. Did you know God has a message that needs delivery?
2. Did you know God's looking for faithful people?

The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.
2 Chronicles 16:9 NLT

3. The Lord knows who He can send!

“Then I heard the Lord asking,
"Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?"
(Then) I said, "Lord, send me."
And he said, "Yes, go..."
Excerpted from Isaiah 6:8-9 NLT

B. Invitation

1. This is a *decision* we make about what kind of person we are going to be!
2. This is a commitment to cultivate our character in such a way that self-reliance and energetic problem-solving become the hallmarks of our lives!
3. Read the book...make the change...it's up to *you*.