

Jan. 20th 2003

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your weekly email support from WorkNet



Change Of Heart

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Does your behaviour at work sometimes amaze you? Do you surprise yourself with your own uncooperative attitude or your strange resentment? Do you find yourself asking 'where did that come from?'

This amazement is more often applied to our encounters with other people. The amazing greed in the city around bonus time. The incredible deceit that is endemic in the sales team. The competitive spirit which causes one person to put another down or the dishonesty in one person taking credit for another's idea.

Personnel departments are now employing CV checking companies because many people quite deliberately lie on their CV's fabricating qualifications they do not have or inventing positions they never held.

Some people strut around the workplace as if they owned it and expect others to jump at their every whim or command. Only recently I heard stories of a quiet employee who was found to be embezzling funds on a grand scale.

In another area, workplace bullying and sexual harassment is now reaching endemic proportions whilst office affairs before during and after hours are not uncommon.

Office gossip and political manoeuvring are commonplace and racism prevails in many institutions. Women speak of continual discrimination and men of the need to win at all costs.

Now the question is, where does it all come from? Analysts speculate that it is because of the increased competitive and pressurised market. People find themselves being forced to use underhand tactics to get a job, keep a job or manage a bottom line. Corporate, financial or organisational pressure we are told, leads people to behave in these ways.

According to Jesus Christ, this is the wrong diagnosis. His diagnosis is that these things come out of our hearts. They are not imposed from outside they come from the inside. He goes on to catalogue a list of

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thirteen evils which come from the human heart, in fact I have illustrated many of them in this piece for you.

We should not be surprised or amazed at our behaviours or that of others. Human hearts are like that. The problem is that we persist with our wrong diagnosis. Our cures come then with regulations, court cases and acts of parliament. We need also to go deeper and ask the spirit of God, who alone can change the human heart, to be at work in us. That is something worth being amazed about.

WORK WELL

Geoff Shattock, National Director

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Here is some biblical background to Jan. 20th wake up call.

Mark 7: 18-22

¹⁸"Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? ¹⁹For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.")

²⁰He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' ²¹For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' "

WAKE UP NEWS

New resource for 2003. Have a look [here](#)

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