



13th June 2005

Welcome to

Wake Up Call

your weekly email support from WorkNet

You Have Heard It Said: Part 7 - Rocking

Thank you for your continued prayers for us to find an assistant/projects manager. Thank you to those of you who have suggested the post to others. Please continue to pray and help us if you can- we are still looking. See news below for details of how to apply.

Sometimes older, wiser and more mature people encourage caution in their younger, less experienced and more headstrong colleagues by advising them not to "rock the boat". The boat in question may be a team dynamic, a working practice or company policy. It may be an established culture in a profession or a tradition in a trade. Honed over many years, these cultures or traditions have a value of their own and seem to work on a pragmatic basis. There is a great logic to this idea that if you rock such a practice you run the risk of destabilising an important component in a working company.



see below

To be fair, before we examine this phrase, it is worth recognising that there is also a school of thought which encourages challenge, innovation, change and creative thinking. In this context, such behaviours would not necessarily be described as rocking the boat, but admired as tools in progress.

The possibility exists in the advice not to 'rock the boat' that there will be a vested interest that will be upset rather than simply removing outdated methods. Here the debate may refer to rights and wrongs and ethics.

It is at this point that the phrase may become invalid. There are important times in our lives when we encounter something which is simply not right. It may be a dishonest working practice. It may be legal but not moral. It may be that adhering to such a policy creates great harm or suffering for others further down the supply chain, or results in unjust environments within which people work. It may be that someone is being manipulated, bullied or intimidated and you can see the unfairness of the circumstances.

It is at this point that you face the choice: to rock or not to rock. If you want a quiet life and no conflict, an easier ride and no bumps or a more certain future as opposed to a scary time, you will not rock. But there are times when God calls us to conflict, bumps and scary times because it is right to act.

You are in good company. Shaftesbury rocked the boat of child exploitation, Wilberforce of slavery and other Christians have followed their example in much lower profile situations. You are in historic company. According to the writer of the Hebrews, you are surrounded by a large number of those who have rocked the boat in the past, often at great cost to themselves. This should motivate us to take our stand. Jesus Himself rocked many boats: political, social, moral and religious to shake people out of their complacency. The older, wiser, mature people do have a point: sometimes we should not rock the boat because it would cause unnecessary hurt. Always we should choose carefully which boats to rock but if you find yourself knowing that at one time you must rock the boat, remember that Jesus specialised in surprises for people in stormy waters, who found that when things got difficult, storms got calmed and some people also found themselves walking on water.

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WORK WELL

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Here is some Biblical background for this week's Wake Up Call

Hebrews 12: 1-3

God Disciplines His Sons

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

See also Hebrews 11

Wake Up News

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- WorkNet is looking for someone to fulfil the vital role of Assistant to Geoff Shattock and Projects Manager. If you are interested in this post, please send your CV to geoff@worknetuk.org. If you know someone who may be interested, please make this important need known to them. A [job description](#) is downloadable from our website.
- The [WorkTalk](#) course is based on the seven sayings of our Lord from the cross. If you haven't got your copy, you can order it now from our [on-line shop](#) and use it for your personal meditation as well as a learning programme.

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