

THIS MORNING'S MESSAGE:

WORK MATTERS: **How Do I Deal With Difficult People?**

April 27, 2008



The Irritating 8

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Why Does God Allow Difficult People in my Life?

• **TO ALERT** _____

“And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?” — Matthew 7:3

• **TO REVEAL** _____

“You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors.” — James 1:3

• **TO PRODUCE** _____

“So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. For when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.” — James 1:4

5 Steps to Dealing With Difficult People:

1. **CONTROL** _____

“So also, the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.” — James 3:5

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.” — James 1:19

2. **RESPOND** _____

“A gentle response defuses anger, but a sharp tongue kindles a temper-fire.” — Proverbs 15:1

“Beginning a quarrel is like opening a floodgate, so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.” — Proverbs 17:14

3. **COMMIT** _____

“All you need to say is ‘Yes’ if you mean yes, or ‘No’ if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.” — Matthew 5:37

“For the spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, his Spirit fills us with power, love, and self-control.” — 2 Timothy 1:7

4. **RESOLVE** _____

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.” — Matthew 5:23-24

5. **DECIDE** _____

“I'm challenging you. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with prayer....If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that.” — Matthew 5:44,46

“Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.” — 1 John 4:11

For Reflection / Action: Who has God put in my life that is a difficult person? What may God be trying to teach me about myself through that person? What quality in my character do I need to develop the most to be able to deal with that difficult person? How well do I control my tongue? Do I tend to respond in kindness or fly off the handle when someone upsets me? So I allow my values to be compromised because of difficult people? Do I allow conflicts to drag on, or do I seek quick resolution? Do I just love the lovable people who treat me nicely? Who do I need to love simply because Jesus loves them?

Message based on sermon by Kerrick Thomas, *The Journey Church, Manhattan, NY; 2004*