

# 30 Business No No's (14)

**It's a "No No" to "bite people's heads off."**

*Quick-tempered leaders are like mad dogs— cross them and they bite your head off.*<sup>1</sup> Solomon

*"A man is about as big as the things that make him angry"*  
Winston Churchill<sup>2</sup>

## **A Boy's Bad Temper**

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there."

How powerful our words are. How destructive anger can be in any relationship. When you bite someone's head off as a leader you are putting holes in that person's soul?<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> MSG Proverbs 20:2

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/anger-and-proverbs-about-it.html>, June 26, 2009; 7:45 AM

## **An Angry Leader**

There is a man in the scriptures who is said to be the humblest leader ever. He carried a shepherd's staff as an old man. When he was young he was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter and brought to live in Pharaoh's house. However, he refused to live in those pleasures when he saw his own people suffering under Egypt's bondage. In anger he struck and killed a man with his bare hands, and buried the guard in the sand.

He fled to Midian. He wasn't there long when he came across a group of women trying to water their sheep, but they were prevented by other male shepherds. In anger he cleared the way for the women to water their sheep. He spent the next 40 years in the wilderness of Midian shepherding sheep. I suppose you can't hurt an animal with your anger that is as dumb as a sheep. God's anger management class for Moses was shepherding sheep.

We all know that Moses faces down Pharaoh, but what is missing in his talks with Pharaoh is that Moses doesn't do the talking. Moses' brother in law Aaron does the talking. Maybe Moses struggle was less with speech and more with his tone!

You know God gets them out of Egypt. As they travel they are out of water and without shade. The people are complaining against Moses and the direction he is taking them. God shows Moses a rock that will bring forth water. He tells Moses to strike it. In anger, Moses hits the rock twice. Later, in anger Moses breaks the stone tablets that God gave him with the 10 Commandments on them.

Moses a man God called the humblest man and a great leader never gets to the Promised Land. Anger can keep us all from the promise land and our age doesn't guarantee that we will ever gain control over our anger. Give power to your anger and it will have power over your destination.

## **Leading When You Are Angry**

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.care2.com/greenliving/nails-in-fence-anger-story.html#>, June 26, 2009; 7:50 AM

**1. Let someone other than you do the talking.**

If you can't control your anger and your tone sounds angry let someone else do the talking. There is great wisdom in what God does in telling Moses to take Aaron to speak for him. Do not think for a moment that Moses didn't love the fight of facing off with Moses. He did. Good thing He let Aaron do the talking.

**2. It is wise to get away from the situation till your anger has cooled.**

I know Moses ran from his crime of murder in anger. Still there is wisdom in the fact that he spent the bulk of his youth shepherding sheep in a barren wilderness. You can't run from what is making you angry. You have to deal with it. However, take the time to get yourself under control before you try to deal with your anger.

**3. Don't give it a place in the work space!**

The scriptures teach us that if you are angry you will teach others to be angry. A leader has the ability to positively or negatively affect those that they are leading. An angry leader will create an angry, always on the edge environment for those they lead. Soon anger will have a place as people will learn to manipulate each other with anger. It is the job of the leader to model how to handle anger properly. Remember, "Anger is only one letter short of danger!"<sup>4</sup> Set the example by dealing with anger in an emotionally healthy way and by establishing ground rules for dealing with conflict in the work place.

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**Round Table:**

- How is anger like putting nails in a fence?
- What power does anger have over your destiny?
- How long is anger an issue in your life?
- What is one thing you suggest for leading when you are angry?

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid. 2. June 26, 2009; 8:45 AM

