

Things You Can Use if You Choose

1. A successful businessman who studied in the United States told me recently that his first encounter with an American professor had left a great impact on his life. The professor walked into the classroom carrying a stack of cards in his hand; and as the professor distributed the cards, he said to his students: keep it in your pocket at all times. On the card, the following statement was written:

“The more you read, the more you succeed.”

2. During the Tsunami that hit Indonesia and other Asian countries, a former Indonesian student whom I had in one of my classes at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, wrote me an email to thank me for a remark I once said:

“We teach you not to make you change your minds, but to train you how to use your minds.”

3. As the marital problems of a colleague at Kuwait University compounded, I made a remark that he liked and made into a poster that hanged in his office for a while, it said:

“If you are not married, no matter how happy you are, you will always feel there is something missing; if you are married, no matter how happy you are, you will always feel there is something wrong.”

Finding the missing thing is hard, and is likely to get harder as time passes. The wrong thing on the other hand, if not corrected in time, will become a serious problem in no time, causing deep distress and unmitigated sadness.

4. Some people speak softly; others speak loudly. Most people who speak softly tend to have self-confidence and care much about what they say and to whom they say it. And because of the credibility they have, they are more likely to be sought by others to listen to what they have to say.

In contrast, most people who speak loudly tend to do so in order to be overheard by others; they tend to lack self-confidence and credibility, and to care less about what they say and to whom they say it. And while speaking loudly enables them to be overheard by others, they tend to have much difficulty finding people to listen to what they have to say, regardless of how they say it.

5. Always remember:

If you want to be a winner who does not lose, you should not abuse friends who care for you, and things you can use