

Things you can use

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 he began to distribute the cards, the professor said: 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 few years ago, a former Indonesian student whom I had in one of my classes at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, send me an email to thank me for a remark I once said in the class room:

“We do not teach you in order 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, however, if not corrected in time, it will become a serious problem in no time, causing deep distress and unmitigated sadness.

4. Some people speak softly, others speak loudly. However, 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 such an attitude, they tend to have credibility and find themselves

surrounded by friends and others interested in what they have to say. In contrast, people who speak loudly tend to do so in order to draw attention, be overheard by others and impress whoever is within reach. Such people tend to lack self-confidence and to care less about what they say and to whom they say it; and because of such an attitude, they tend to lose credibility as they speak and to have much difficulty finding people interested in listening to them and to what they have to say.

5. Always remember:

Winners do not abuse friends or things they can use and benefit from.

While good times make good friends, bad times test the sincerity and strength of friendships.

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