

Talk Back

Because some of Jesus' most powerful acts were misunderstood or misrepresented, He knew the importance of talk back in His ministry.

First, people tend to see and hear what they want to see and hear. For example, after he miraculously fed a multitude, people saw in Jesus what they wanted to see - only a *political* saviour. John 6.15.

The Son of God stood right in front of them, unrecognised! He had to tell them, "You have seen me and yet do not believe." John 6.36.

Second, when Pharisees (Israel's religious leaders) opposed Jesus publicly, he used dialogue to openly instruct and correct them out of their own scriptures. Today Christians have great freedom to publicly engage in feedback with earnest enquirers. Does Acts 8.30-31 encourage us?

Third, after Jesus used exorcism to combat demon-possession, it was a clear sign of God at work. But the Pharisees said Jesus' power was Satanic! Through dialogue, however, Jesus easily silenced their silly argument that he was using Satan to undermine His Godly work. Matthew 12.24-30. Because Jesus never walked away, never failed to respond, never said, "No comment!" His powerful answers have been inspiring and instructing non-stop for 2000 years.

For easy-to-remember, conversational, two-way communication, read the four Gospels.

Ken Packer