



and that's...
The Gospel Truth!!
with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

The story is told of the most famous elephant in the world -- a huge, beautiful and gentle beast named Bozo. Children extended open palms filled with peanuts for the Indian elephant, who gently plucked them from little hands and seemed to smile as he ate his treats.

But one day, for some inexplicable reason, Bozo changed. He almost stampeded the man who cleaned his cage. He charged children at the circus and became incorrigible. His owner knew he would have to destroy the once-gentle giant.

In order to raise money for a new elephant, the circus owner held a cruel exhibition. He sold tickets to witness Bozo's execution and, on the appointed day, his arena was packed. Three men with high-powered rifles rose to take aim at the great beast's head.

Just before the signal was given to shoot, a little, stubby man in a brown hat stepped out of the crowd and said to the elephant's owner, "Sir, this is not necessary. Bozo is not a bad elephant."

"But he is," the man argued. "We must kill him before he kills someone."

"Sir, give me two minutes alone in his cage," the visitor pleaded, "and I'll prove to you that you are wrong. He is not a bad elephant."

After a few more moments of discussion (and a written statement absolving the circus of liability if the man should be injured), the keeper finally agreed to allow the man inside Bozo's cage. The man removed his brown derby and entered the cage of the bellowing and trumpeting beast.

Before the elephant could charge, the man began to speak to him. Bozo seemed to immediately quiet down upon hearing the man's words. Nearby spectators could also hear the man, but they could not understand him, for he spoke a foreign language. Soon the great animal began to tremble, whine and throw his head about. Then the stranger walked up to Bozo and stroked his trunk. The great elephant tenderly wrapped his trunk around the man, lifted him up and carried him around his cage before carefully depositing him back at the door. Everyone applauded.

As the cage door closed behind him, the man said to Bozo's keeper, "You see, he is a good elephant. His problem is that he is an Indian elephant and understands one language." He explained that Bozo was frustrated and confused. He needed someone who could speak his language. "I suggest sir, that you find someone in London to come in occasionally and talk to the elephant. If you do, you'll have no problems."

The man picked up his brown derby and walked away. It was at that time that the circus owner looked carefully at the signature on the paper he held in his hand -- the note absolving the circus of responsibility in the case he was injured inside the elephant's cage. The statement was signed by Rudyard Kipling.

People also become frustrated and angry when they are not understood. But great relationships are formed by parents who learn to speak their children's language; lovers who speak each other's language; professionals who speak the language of their staff and clients. When people understand that YOU understand, that you empathize with their heartaches and understand their problems, then you are speaking their language! It is the beginning of true communication.

I love that story. The desire to communicate is very strong in every individual. The desire to be communicated with is also as strong. It is said that if two people who have no common language at all are put into a room by themselves, they will eventually figure out some way to communicate. The main problem is that we fail to try to understand the heart of what is communicated. We tend to "hear" in our own language. I know that my wife and I have a different "language of love". I am the warm and fuzzy, touchy-feely type, much like an old hound dog. Just pet me and feed me and I feel loved. Although she is the most loving person I know, her language of love revolves more around security issues. That's what tells her that she is loved. If she feels secure in the necessities of life, that speaks a much louder "I Love You" than all affection I might show her.

God wanted to communicate with us so He sent His Son to earth to communicate with all the "bad elephants". He tried "one on one" communication;;; it didn't work. He tried miracles...they never fostered long term faithfulness. He tried every way possible to communicate with this world's deafened ears but by sending His Son, the Word was made in human form. He walked and talked with us. Fortunately, he left a communicator that speaks all the languages. He left the Holy Spirit to communicate with us.

He still wants to communicate with us today. Take a moment to listen for that still small voice of the Holy Spirit. He will communicate with you. Guaranteed!

To all the "bad elephants out there....

Colossians 4:2....Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Hey! Talk is cheap! In good way!!!!

And that's....The Gospel Truth!!

Email your comments or questions to:
patcorn@maizeone.com

Visit Pat's website at www.maizeone.com