

## The Sender: A Story About When Right Words Make All The Difference (Elko, Kevin)

Get better, not bitter.”

Then Christ’s half-brother, James—who was recounting the story—said be “glad for your adversity.” Be glad for your suffering. It will teach you patience, endurance, and long-suffering. These merge into a simple idea: be better, not bitter.

Lessons get learned, then lessons get tested. You’ll be tested.

The habit was simple enough: put the lesson into play immediately. Share it, talk about it, do it, preach it, coach it, write it, spread it around out loud to another person, or it’s gone forever.

That’s where Charlie stumbled across a simple way to magnify his learning technique: if you really want something to stick in your mind, share it out loud twice in one day, consciously, purposefully, intentionally

Deion Sanders always used to say, “The play don’t care who makes it.” I kind of didn’t understand what he meant until I suddenly got it. What he was really saying is, you never know when the play is going to occur. You just have to make sure you show up when the play shows up. That’s different than forcing it. There’s a difference between letting it happen and making it happen.

Hey, Charlie, you never know when health is going to show up, so you always gotta be in position. You have to be there when it does. You never know when a blessing is going to show up. You have to be there when it does. I’ve always thought financially, economically, you never know when it’s going to show up. It can come in so many differently disguised ways.

Living in your vision and not living in your circumstances

“I’m not looking for blessings to come into my life. I’m looking to be a blessing in someone’s life.”

We need to redirect our minds to see the things we want to see. So when I walk about saying, “Can I be a blessing, can I be a blessing?” I begin seeing a chance to be a blessing.

And it gives you big jolts of energy to be a blessing, to feel like you are needed, necessary.

Lessons get tested.

In that instant Charlie shifted on the inside. Haphak is the name for moments like that. Charlie read it in one of the earlier letters. It’s an Old Testament Hebrew word for a turning-point moment. A turnaround, when an implosion turns into an explosion. For Charlie this haphak felt like a moment of pure, honest clarity; a sudden and unexpectedly clear sense of fate.

So I taught this story to Green Bay going into the playoffs of their Super Bowl year. Our quarterback missed a pass against Atlanta. But if you go watch the film, it was a classic example: he and the head coach looked at each other and they lifted their arms. And went on to win the game. In other words, the first thing you do is lift the spirit.

Dimension #1: Spiritual. You have to win the spiritual plane. The lifting of the arms is the lifting of the spirit. Through prayer. Through pause of thought. Through focusing on what you want to achieve and believing.

Dimension #2: Physical. You have to win on the physical plane. The fighting down in the valley with the sword is doing the process. Doing the right things. Doing the work. Focusing not on the battle, but on doing the work of winning the battle.

Dimension #3: Relational. You have to win the relational plane. The lifting of the arms of one another is what to do when you get tired. We need people around us to lift us. I hope and pray that was one of the

things I've done for you in your life. Lifting your arms when you couldn't lift them yourself.

Keep this in mind when people criticize you. They've never erected a statue to a critic.

I want you to keep teaching yourself and I am going to keep teaching myself—others. In this self-absorbed, it's-about-me world, we sometimes forget it's about others. I want you to keep teaching your team. Others. Let's keep teaching each other. Others.

This probably isn't right but I think he said, "I've sat at a lot of people's deathbeds. And the ones who have the hardest time dying are the ones that never really loved." I like to think of love here as really living. Really living, really big.

Here's what I'm going to get into. I am going to flirt with these ideas: Why not us? Why not dream big and even outrageous? And pray bold. Expect more. That's what I think I would text my team as they get ready to play in the playoffs. Expect more. Play harder and expect more. Let your play show that you expect more. Let your dreams show that you expect more.

So I want you after this to go tell people, we all die at the end. Just don't die in the middle.

Tell them this: We all die in the end. That's not what to be afraid of. What's to be afraid of is getting paralyzed by fear and dying in the middle. We all die in the end. Just don't die in the middle. I want to tell you what I've told you so many times.

But lessons get tested.

They would each have to choose what was most important to take with them.

"Vision or circumstances. It's your choice."

You either live in vision or you live in circumstance

Losing games, losing jobs, losing friends and loved ones. All these things are tough. Was it worth it?

Because that's the price you pay for the things you go through. Was it worth it?

Did you know that love has a price? It's called grief. You never have to have a broken heart. How? Just don't love anything.

He shot me in the chest. I don't know who he is. I was just standing on a corner and he shot me right in the chest. I've been so angry ever since." She said, "This is the first good day I've had since I've been shot. I am going to go forgive him. Everything I went through—it was worth it." It was worth it.

Let me tell you the difference between choosing and feeling. I've tried to share so many things with you over the last few months. I've given you mantras, homework, stories, and advice. You have to choose to do them. You won't feel like doing them, you have to choose to do them. We've learned about winning on three levels, the spiritual, the physical, and the relational. You have to choose to do that. You may feel like being bitter, but you have to choose to be better. You may feel like living in the circumstance, but you have to choose to live in the vision. You may feel like giving up but you have to choose to fight weary. You may not feel like being kind but you have to choose to be a blessing. Same with forgiveness, being where your feet are, condition vs. position, fixin' to, I'm strong if you're strong. These are things you have to choose. You don't feel like puttin' down that Twinkie, you choose it, Dog.