

WHEN SHOULD YOU SPEAK UP FOR THE TRUTH?

2 Timothy 4:2

2 Timothy 4:2 *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

What does “in season, out of season” mean? It means when it’s convenient and when it’s inconvenient; in other words, don’t be so picky about exactly the right time and the right circumstances.

Philippians 1:18 *What then? Notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.*

The point Paul makes here, “in pretence, or in truth,” is that there is no wrong way to preach the gospel. You may think you did it wrong, bungled it, embarrassed yourself, and left a bad impression. But if the word got out at all, that’s a good thing, even when it’s taught by people whose motives are not right, “in pretence.”

John 6:66 *From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.*
:67 *Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?*

Even Jesus could not always persuade his audience. And when they left, he felt bad and lost confidence, enough to doubt even those closest to him. That’s the moment when most men give up but great men trudge forward and get the job done anyway.

You may feel that what you say has no effect, or worse, a bad effect. And maybe that’s so. But the only way to get it done is to keep on keeping on.

John 8:40 *But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth...*

Jesus was under no delusions. Make no mistake, speaking the truth may be hazardous, and it ultimately was for Jesus — it finally led him to the cross.

Do you want to be a truth speaker? Good. But just understand the risks you’re assuming, then go for it.