

## Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

January 17, 2017

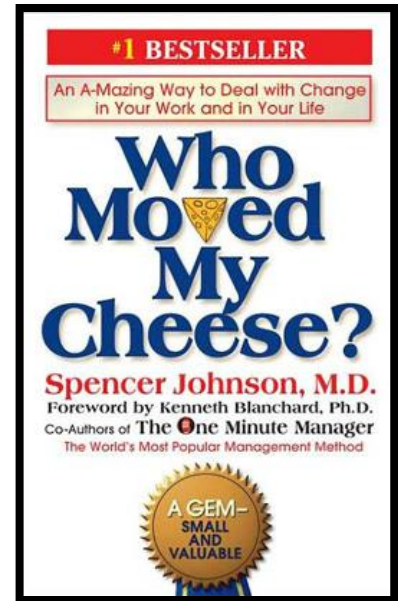
I imagine that I've told you that one of the more important moments in my life happened in the Denver airport. Jill and I were waiting for a plane to somewhere, and I read the little book, *Who Moved My Cheese? An A-Mazing Way to Deal with Change in Your Work and in Your Life*, while we were waiting.

One page, in particular, precipitated a "kairotic" moment for me.<sup>1</sup> On that page was a single graphic, which asked the question, "What would you do if you were not afraid?" As soon as I read the question, I knew the answer, and it changed the direction of my life.

How would you answer that question today, as we make our way into the year 2017? Let that ponder be your musing for this week . . . .

Dave

P.S. I've also attached a handout, "Four Things You Can Do," which I generally share with congregations I serve each January. Seems like we need the reminders more in "cabin fever season."



<sup>1</sup> **Kairos** (*καιρός*) is an [ancient Greek](#) word meaning the right or opportune moment (the 'supreme moment'). The ancient Greeks had two words for [time](#): [Greek](#): χρόνος ([chronos](#)) and [kairos](#). While the former refers to [chronological](#) or sequential [time](#), the latter signifies a period or season, a moment of indeterminate time in which an event of significance happens. What is happening when referring to [kairos](#) depends on who is using the word. While [chronos](#) is quantitative, [kairos](#) has a qualitative, permanent nature (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kairos>).

## Four Things YOU can do to build Christian Community

### 1. PRAY

- Pray earnestly to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.
- Pray that God will give you a heart that is filled with compassion and with zeal for the Great Commission.
- Don't be as concerned about what someone else should be doing as with what YOU could be doing if your life were fully yielded to the Lord (Matthew 7:3-5).

### 2. GUARD YOUR TONGUE

- *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen”* (Ephesians 4:29).
- *“Remember that you will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word you have spoken. By your own words you will be acquitted; by your own words you will be condemned”* (Matthew 12:36-37).
- *“Remember that if you do not keep a tight rein on your tongue, your religion is worthless”* (James 1:26).

### 3. ACHIEVE A CLEAR SPIRIT

- If you have a concern or a grievance with any other person in our community, pray diligently, study Matthew 18:15-20 and Matthew 5:9, and go to speak with that person according to these principles of scripture.
- If you are aware of someone else who has a grievance with you, pray diligently, study Matthew 5:23-24 and Matthew 5:9, and go to speak with that person according to these principles of scripture.
- Do not let a “root of bitterness” (Hebrews 12:15) grow in your heart about anything that has happened. This is YOUR responsibility, God being your helper.

### 4. BE TRUSTWORTHY

- Learn the governing documents of our community inside and out.
- Follow both the letter and the spirit of these documents.
- Over-report rather than under-report.
- *Process is more important than outcome.*
- A good decision made through a bad process is a bad decision.
- BUILD TRUST, BUILD TRUST, BUILD TRUST.

*The Community of Faith is composed of those persons  
who witness to the reality of the Kingdom of God,  
who embody the life of the Kingdom in daily experience, and  
who continually seek to enlarge the compass of the Kingdom in the world.*