

You don't know what you're doing

Recently, I had lunch with a friend who's less than half my age. He's been a student of mine at a Summer youth camp where I have the privilege to teach and chaplain. I've always spoken very highly of this young man, for whom I have tremendous respect. I've always sensed that the respect is mutual, from our conversations and some of the things he's shared with me, but what I never realized was the effect I was having in his life, and that, totally by accident.

The occasion of our luncheon was on the heels of a speaking engagement. This same young fellow had asked me to come and speak at chapel, at the school where he's employed as a full time teacher. There were two groups to speak to; the underclassmen, grades 6-8, and the upperclassmen, grades 9-12.

I was introduced to the first group by one of the young man's comrades, another teacher at the school. I was surprised to hear him telling the students who I was in the life of my friend. He spoke of tremendous life influence, teaching influence, personal influence... Frankly, I was taken by surprise and thought that there'd be a little embellishment.

I was introduced to the second group by the young man himself. He spoke of my *importance* in his life. I was shocked, and curious as to what he was talking about. I never knew. I just figured we liked each other and had similar interests.

After speaking at back to back chapel services, we had lunch together. He began to discuss with me his teaching paradigm and techniques, telling me that they were in large part, like mine... to which he had been exposed for 6 or 7 years prior, and he thanked me.

Who knew that all that time that I was standing on my head and spitting nickels (frequently acting foolish to get my points across at youth camp) that I was affecting the life of this young man who would then go on to reach hundreds of other young people. I had no idea.

So I say to you all... you don't know what you're doing. How you behave is observed by those around you, especially the young people. Consider carefully what you do, when you do it, how you do it, who sees you doing it... etc...etc...etc...

What we do, echoes in eternity. *See then that you walk carefully, not as unwise, but as wise* (Eph5:15)

Pastor