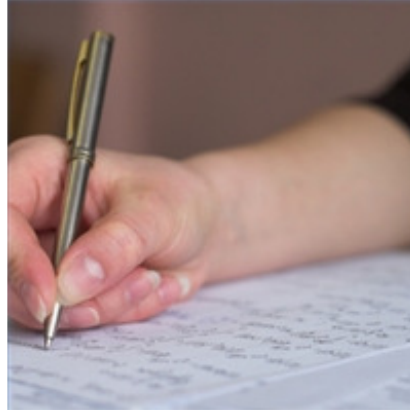


WE ARE GOING TO BE TESTED...

A great quote from American author Tom Bodett states; *'The difference between school and life: in school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson.'* Well, I was tested this week and was amazed and pleased with myself as to the way I responded. This is what happened...



It was very early on Wednesday morning, about 2:30am to be precise! I was doing what most people do at that time of the day ... Sleeping! My phone was on, but thankfully on silent, and it started vibrating on my bed side table. It woke me and Laura up because when things are so quiet the phone vibrating is loud enough. I ignored it because I was still half asleep. About 2 minutes later it rang again so I thought I had better get it in case it was important. I answered and I could not understand what the person at the other end was saying – he sounded drunk and so I hung up, turned the phone off and went back to sleep.



In the morning I turned my phone back on to see that there were several missed calls, a voice message and a text message. I looked at the text message first ... and it wasn't very nice! It was in fact very abusive. It was from someone who obviously knew me but didn't like me at all. I won't tell you exactly what it said but some words included; 'f---ing arrogant' and 'illusiv c---', just to name a few. I then listened to the voice message which was much the same. I lay there stunned for a moment, then my response surprised me...

Look for the lesson!



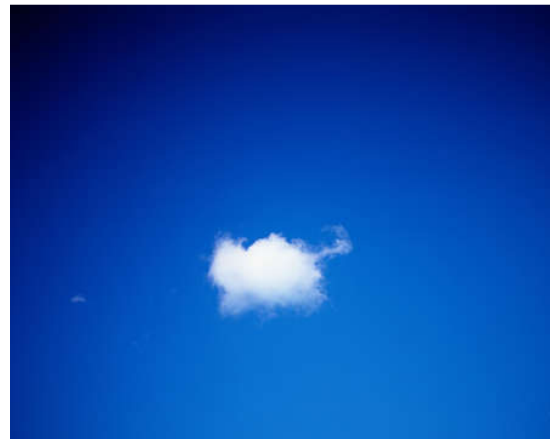
In my past I know exactly how I would have reacted. I would have been angry, hurt, sooky and it would have seriously damaged my self esteem. I would have rung the phone number, abused the person at the other end and started something that would have spiralled me down a truly negative path – exactly what this person would have wanted. Instead I simply deleted the text message and the voice message and asked myself 'what is the lesson here?'

Immediately the answer came to me. The lesson for me was to make the time to let the most important people in my life, some that I have possibly neglected, what they mean to

me. I hugged Laura, who couldn't quite believe how I had responded, and told her how much I love her. I sent messages to my brother and sister to tell them I am thinking about them. I left messages for a couple of good friends who I hadn't spoken to in a while and I felt fantastic for that whole day. But it could have been very different. Instead of being angry and offended by this person, I found myself feeling grateful for what he had inspired me to do. Go figure!!

What do we see?

When we look at this photo what do we see? I my previous days I would have said what many people would say. I would have said that I see one cloud! What I see now is an abundant and incredibly beautiful blue sky. Do we look for the one thing that is not quite right and that we don't like, or do we look for that amazing abundance that we all have in our lives if we choose to focus on it? It is always there



In my little experience this week, I could have quite easily looked at the cloud. I could have focused on the fact that one person doesn't like me, in fact based on the messages, actually hates me. Instead what I chose to see and be incredibly grateful for was all the amazing people that I have in my life and to make sure I never ever take them for granted.

We all need to understand that we are going to be tested on a regular basis. How we respond to these tests and what we learn from them will 100% determine how our lives will turn out. Have a brilliant week.

*Andrew Jobling
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