

“Not Everyone Wishes You Well”

Dan Rather was an anchor or news reporter for one of the major networks. He evidently had some sense of what it's like to not be liked; or in words, to be maligned, misunderstood, or treated maliciously about the most apparent – the news.

Sometimes “the messenger” is the one who suffers, or as said, *takes the fall*. Other times, the messenger may be rewarded or praised – in the event that his news or message is acceptable...desired. Both the content and the delivery are key to the response however; and well who share Dan's profession know it.

“A tough lesson in life that one has to learn is that not everybody wishes you well.”

- Dan Rather

To go back in time (and I mean way back), the prophets of the Old Testament (of the Bible) were messengers; and they knew the meaning of rejection – or how to *take the fall*.

Of these prophets, a recent study has been on **Hosea**: in a very personal way, he had to convey the country's (Israel) unfaithfulness; and the unfaithfulness (of the country) had become so severe that God allowed another country to conquer them. Hosea was disliked by the country...and by his wife.

Another prophet was **Malachi** – whose name means “the messenger”. Having returned from exile, the Hebrews represented a small nation compared with the bordering Persian Empire. Perhaps having an inferiority complex, these people lost hope in God's covenant love and fell into several bad habits or practices. Malachi was the lucky fellow appointed by God to tell them that God was going to judge them (for their bad practices).

Still another of these appointed by God was **Jeremiah**. Called the “weeping prophet”, he had the unhappy task of announcing the destruction of the southern kingdom, Judah, by the Babylonians; while at the same time, having to contend with false prophets who message (s) seemed more politically-correct (acceptable, desired).

Obviously, **Dan is not the first to experience rebuff** – even condemnation – from the masses (public, market or viewing audience). No, the messenger is often the first to *feel the heat* for the bad news.

One difference between the prophets and the others, such as news' reporters, is that prophets (real prophets) conveyed the word of God. The prophets “source for news” was reliable and accurate, while any other sources may have some error – whether intentional or not. Sometimes the news reporters don't tell the truth; sometimes their practice of not telling the truth is intentional or deliberate.

The time-tested advice, “**don’t believe anything you hear and half of what you read**”, has merit. Should the news print or broadcast some erroneous information, what is the risk or *downside* for the publisher, station or network? At the most is an apology; but sometimes their “perspective” or bias may be excused as opinion – or something like it...

Coincident to this “erroneous information” is the recent publication of the book, “No Time to Think: The Menace of Media Speed and the 24-hour News Cycle”, by Howard Rosenberg and Charles Feldman. Coming from the ranks of the reporting profession, these two propose that the media is largely about opinion – rather than facts or verified evidence. As one reader put it: “It (the news) consists almost entirely of opinion, speculation and ridiculous combinations of those two, presented and disguised as news...”

The truth is important...even if it means bad news. Yes, the delivery or method of issuing the news can be considered important too; but not when the method is designed to dilute the message...or deceive the view, reader, etc. Delivery is devalued when deception is the intention. If you don’t believe me, ask anyone who has been deceived – or lied to – by a family member, spouse or presumed friend. **Good, healthy relationships are built on trust**; and love is not real when lies are being perpetrated by one or the other.

In my reading of the news’ magazine, Newsweek, an article asserts that many of our nation’s public has been duped by the improprieties and risky decisions of the financial markets. This particular writer (or correspondent) asserts that most people do not understand the markets – and have blindly entrusted their monies to this markets (or agencies). **Were they deceived or misled?** Did they cause the problem by carelessly trusting someone else; or did they fail to make sound investments because of their lack of understanding or knowledge? I don’t know, but many people have taken much loss in one form or another. Any trust (or ignorance) allocated to these sources has been brought to bare...

Some of the culprits of this cause (or losses or mal-investments) have been identified or revealed through the media. Others may be less publicized or may be applying much effort to evade attention...or *pass the buck* to someone else. Whether they are responsible or not, **populist opinion** may lump them into a broad category of possible causes – with or without a knowing public. What they may have learned already – or may learn through the ordeal – is that not everybody wishes you well...and sometimes people hate you.

The prophets of old were hated they told the people something that was not desirable or favorable; though it was the truth, they (the people) did not want to hear it. Of course, the news (or the purpose of the prophets) was not about investments or monies, but **it was about the consequences of disobeying God**. Sometimes the false prophets were the momentary heroes – only to be

proven later as charlatans or otherwise bearers of false information or prophecy. The real prophets were maligned and mistreated because of corrupt hearts and minds who could not accept the truth.

A lesson is found among the old prophets; and that lesson is that the truth cannot be denied for ever. Eventually, **the truth will surface**...and surpass all false prophets, mal-investments, risky loans and mortgages, bias or deceptive reports, and other actions and claims that fall into this realm.

I wish you well...