

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 3-6: Don't Wait to Say "I Love You"

In a class I teach for adults, I gave the class homework! (课后作业). The assignment (作业) was to go to someone you love and tell them you love them. It doesn't sound like a very tough (困难) assignment, until you realize that most of the men were over 35 and were raised in the generation of men that were taught that expressing emotions is not "macho" (有男子气概的).

At the beginning of our next class, I asked if someone wanted to share his experience (经验). A man raised his hand. He appeared quite moved (激动) and a bit shaken (摇动). He began, "Dennis, I was quite angry with you last week when you gave us this assignment. I didn't feel that I had anyone to say those words to. But as I was driving (开车) home my conscience (良心) started talking to me. It was telling me that I knew exactly who I needed to say 'I love you' to. You see, five years ago, my father and I had a serious disagreement (不同意见) and never resolved (解决) it since that time. – We avoided seeing each other unless we had to be at Christmas or other family gatherings (聚集). So last Tuesday by the time I got home I had convinced (说服) myself I was going to tell my father I loved him."

"It's weird (不可思议的), but just making that decision (决定) seemed to lift a heavy load (重担) off my chest. The next day at 5:30 p.m., I was at my parents' house ringing the doorbell. It was Dad who answered the door. I didn't waste any time. -- I took one step in the door and said, 'Dad, I just came over to tell you that I love you.' "

"It was as if a transformation (改变) came over my Dad. Before my eyes, his face softened, the wrinkles (皱纹) seemed to disappear (消失) and he began to cry. He reached and hugged (拥抱) me and said, 'I love you too,

son, but I've never been able to say it.' It was such a precious (宝贵) moment (时刻). " "But that's not even my point (这不只是我要说的). Two days after that visit, my Dad, who had a heart attack (心脏病), ended up in hospital, unconscious (失去知觉). I don't know if he'll make it (康复). So my message to all of you in this class is this: Don't wait to do the things you know need to be done. What if I had waited to tell my dad—maybe I will never get the chance again! Take the time to do what you need to do and do it now!"

2. Discussion:

1. What was the class assignment and why was it difficult for the students?
2. Describe what happened with the student who shared his experience.
3. What do you learn from this story?

3. Remember Seven Phrases a Week:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| 127. Don't let me down. | 别让我失望。 |
| 128. Easy come easy go. | 来得容易，去得快。 |
| 129. I beg your pardon. | 请你原谅。 |
| 130. I beg your pardon? | 请您再说一遍。 |
| 131. I'll be back soon. | 我马上回来。 |
| 132. I'll check it out. | 我去查查看。 |
| 133. It's a long story. | 说来话长。 |

4. Proverbs:

1. But Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44)
2. Do well and have well. (善有善报)
3. Kindness is nobler than revenge.