



The TRUTH – Now or Later?

Kelly Sunshine – www.getitdonewrite.com

A wise man once said, “It is better to tell the truth first, than to tell it last”. Hmm...? Let’s think about that for a minute. And actually, before I go further, I have to admit something. It wasn’t a man who said that. In fact, it was a child who was six years old – and it was my son, Lance. I don’t remember exactly what prompted him to tell me this. I may have talked recently to him and his sister about what it means to lie, but I don’t recall any major incident that was cause for a serious lecture on honesty. I do know that at his school, they would recite a ‘quote of the week’ which went along with a theme, and that the director carried a little black book, just in case one of his astute young scholars had something to contribute. This was likely the motivation to create a quote worthy of Mr. Wilkinson’s notepad of special expressions.

Nonetheless, have you ever listened to a six year old tell a joke? - Especially one that he made up himself? And then, watch him delight in telling you, so pleased with his own humor, while you try to unfurrow your brow, force that smile, give a little chuckle, and wonder what the heck the punch line was?! So... I was understandably astonished when Lance came to me one afternoon and asked, “Mommy, you know what? I thought of a saying for you.”

“Okay,” I nodded politely, ready to feign interest.

And then he announced, “It’s better to tell the truth first, than to tell it last”.

(Little did he know, we had fortune cookie material right there). Immediately, I was, of course, one proud Mama. But after recovering from my surprise, and acknowledging how clever he was, I wondered if he really understood what he had just said. So I asked, “And what do you mean by that, Honey?”

“Well”, he started, “if you do something wrong or bad, and don’t tell anybody, **maybe** your mom and dad, or teacher won’t find out. But if you don’t say anything about it, or you lie, somebody might tell on you. **AND**, if your parents find out later, then you are going to be in **REALLY** big trouble. So, if you do something wrong, and you admit it right away, you might be in a little bit of trouble, but not as much as if you wait. That’s why it’s better to get it out of the way because we all make mistakes.”

Isn’t it great when one of those life lessons you had planned on instilling at some point, just happens on its own? I could not have explained it better myself. And instead of being the teacher, I ended up being the one “schooled”. Not only did I have something incredible to write down in MY little notebook that day, ala “Kids say the darndest things”, but by listening, and gazing at his earnest little face, I felt that blissful sense of awe, one of those moments to hang onto and cherish. ~ Kelly Sunshine

Note to the reader: Sure enough, Mr. Wilkinson copied that quote into his little black book he kept in his shirt pocket; and later that year, when the sentiment matched the theme of the week, the whole school got to hear and repeat my son's wise words.