

# The Boss' Office

the story of a man who spoke in haste.



Brian thought people were out to get him, so when he was called into a meeting with his boss, he *knew* it was bad news...

*...Or was it?*

# The Boss' Office

## short story.

One afternoon, Brian's boss called him into his office. Brian was very nervous, and he wondered what it could possibly be about.

His boss, Mr. Jones, sat down behind the desk and gestured for Brian to sit in the chair across from him.

"Brian, how long have you worked here?" he asked, tapping his pen against the desk.

"About three years, sir."

"That sounds about right. Brian, I spoke with Rachel last week, and I've been meaning to talk to you about something."

Rachel was his supervisor. She must've told Mr. Jones something bad about him. What had he done wrong? He wracked his brain, but couldn't remember anything. People were *always* out to get him, Brian thought.

"Mr. Jones," Brian said, panicking. "I don't think Rachel really tells it like it is. She plays favorites with the employees and doesn't treat us fairly."

"Oh really?" Mr. Jones said, clearly pondering what Brian had said.

"That's too bad, because she recommended that I give you a raise. I'm glad you said something, though. I'll have to look into it."



**MORAL:** Control your reactions, or you may find yourself acting unwisely in haste.

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## personal reflection.

Oops! Brian must be kicking himself now.

Ask yourself: How many words have I blurted out in a rush, only to wish I could take them back later? As the saying goes, **speak in haste, regret at your leisure.**

Self-discipline is the key to success in many areas of our life. Controlling our tongue is one of the most important aspects of self-control that we can master. The tongue is an excellent servant but a cruel master, as Brian found to his dismay.

When we control our gut reactions and take time to *think* instead of blurting out our first thoughts, we are guaranteed to be happier with the results.

Brian made the mistake that is so common to all of us – **he jumped to conclusions.** He made a decision about what was happening *before* listening, and he acted on his thoughts, feelings and fears.

The wiser course of action would've been to listen closely,

absorb the situation, think about it, and then give a response.

If Brian had the attitude of learning from instruction, he would have noticed that his supervisor and his boss were happy with his job performance.

Instead, he taught his boss that he's a gossip and a person so concerned about his own aggrandizement that he is willing to put someone else down in order to preserve his own reputation.

It's hard work to bite our tongue, hold back criticism, and *really* listen. It takes restraint not to panic or allow our emotions to take over. But learning to control our speech leads to learning to control ourselves – in all aspects of our lives.

Even when someone corrects us, if we hold our tongue and listen to constructive criticism, we can develop and grow in ways we hadn't considered.

Self-discipline in controlling emotions saves us embarrassment and will prevent the need for apologies in the future.

### Self-Reflection Questions:

- Do you often find yourself wishing you could take back something you've said?
- How could disciplining your tongue help you in your relationships with others?
- Is your reluctance to think before speaking holding you back in your job or personal relationships?