

# Mark Cooney – “Making An Impact”

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December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - KBA Meeting

## Introduction

My career as a speaker started when I was playing with the Green Bay Packers. That year I was one of the only rookies to “make it” and so they asked me to talk to this room full of gentleman.

1. They introduced me as the next Paul Hornung (probably due to my off-the-field antics).
  - a. I didn’t know what it meant, but I didn’t think I wanted it.
2. I had reached what I thought was the pinnacle of my dreams, all I had ever wanted was to be a professional football player. I felt like there was more and I wanted more... it wasn’t enough.
  - a. I knew that I was messed up and I know the other guys were too.
  - b. This started an intense search for “Why am I here?”

## I came to Lord not long after that

1. Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
2. This was how I now sought to live my life.
3. I wanted to make an impact, not only for myself but for the Lord.

## Fast Forward 30 Years

1. I think that life was pretty good.
2. I was getting ready to build my dream home.
3. I had a successful real estate practice, and I was making enough money to put my kids through college. I had two girls in college, and my third – my son was preparing to go to the University of Colorado.
4. My business was really prospering.

## Then the Bottom Dropped Out!

1. I found out that I had cancer that would require an incredibly intense surgery followed by months and months of radiation and chemotherapy treatments.
2. When I began, I was given a 15% chance of making it. You know I went to school and I got 15% a few times on some tests, so I knew that 15% wasn’t that good a chance.
3. By God’s grace – I was able to go to work every day. I asked my nurses who administered the chemotherapy what I should be doing for exercise. They said that most of the people in treatment struggled to get out of bed – so they recommended that they go get the mail every day. I was worried about doing more, when most people in that situation were just struggling to get to the end of their driveways. God’s grace was more than evident.

## Counsel From Other Chemo Patients

1. They said that if I wanted to make it, that it was imperative that I get rid of the negative.
2. I focused my energy on being positive and not being negative.

3. With God's help and the support of my wife, I was able to stay away from the negative which could have put me into a negative emotional downward spiral.

### **The principles of walking with God were still there, but now I had to live them out.**

1. God became my complete source for living – we became very close.
2. I didn't know how I was going to pay the bills, but he always and continually met my needs.
3. I did not allow worry or fear to enter into my thought life.

### **Once the chemo was over, I was afraid that I would lose that closeness with God.**

1. God was saying go back out there I have more for you.
2. I do not know how much longer I have
3. The Real Estate picture has changed dramatically in the last year.

### **Keys I Learned:**

1. Study of Elijah, When the brook dries up...God has something else for you to do.
2. Now is not the time to pull back – God has called all of us to make an impact.
3. Running through these difficult times God has a work for us to do right here, right now.
4. As long as we are here on this earth God's purpose is for us to bring honor and glory to Him in the way we live, work & manage our businesses.
5. We are all called to tell the good news to the world of how we were brought out from the darkness into the light.
6. I would have loved to have retired and lived on an island, but God sends all of us back into the world to make an impact.

### **How do we do this?**

1. First, ask God to let you see the World the way he sees it.
2. Second, demonstrate God's love in the way we live.
  - a. This economic downturn is wreaking havoc and going to create more disaster in the lives of people
  - b. We have the answers and need to put Christ's transforming love into action.
3. Finally, we all need to learn how to share our faith.

**We need to go through these difficult times, praying for the people around us. If not, we miss out on the blessing of changing the lives we touch.**