



Podcast Episode 184
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“Have You ‘Burned a Boat’ Lately? You Probably Need to”

David Loy: Hi and welcome to *In the Loop* with Andy Andrews, I’m your host David Loy. Andy, thanks for joining us again this week.

Andy Andrews: Thank you buddy. I’m glad to be here. I hope I can talk about, whatever we’re going to talk about. I’ve got the song, you know how you have things going through your mind and you can’t get rid of them. And you would not believe what I cannot get rid of.

David: Well you said it’s a song, so is it a theme song to some TV show?

Andy: Yeah, it’s a theme song.

David: And I really just, knowing you that’s.

Andy: I’ll do the very first part of it and I’ll bet you can get it, ok. *Baby if you’ve ever wondered whatever became of me.* Come on now, you don’t get that?

David: I’m blanking.

Andy: Living on the air in Cincinnati.

David: Oh.

Andy: Cincinnati. I don't know why that's on my mind, but do you know the most iconic line from that show? There is like, a funny line that came from that show, at least to me, but anybody who watched that show remembers the specific episode, it was a Thanksgiving episode where Les Nessman and the Boss, they were going to give away turkeys. And they gave, they decided that they were drop them from a helicopter and that people would get these live turkeys. And they would catch turkeys. And it became this huge disaster. But at the very end of the show, the boss, the Big Guy, and Les Nessman come in and they're cut up, they're beat up, their clothes are torn up, they've got feathers hanging off of them, and the Boss says, this is the line, he says, as God is my witness, I thought turkeys could fly. This has nothing to do with anything, it's on my mind.

David: Your brain is an amazing thing.

Andy: Yeah, I'm sorry. Yeah, studied by science.

David: Now, speaking of our brain, you have come up with some terrific stories and interesting pieces of history, and you put a unique spin on those, in the past.

Andy: It's because, it's only because and I recently had this added to my repertoire, I know that I'm kind of a noticer but Bill Gaither, the huge

David: Yes, songwriter of the century.

Andy: You know what he said to me, he said, Andy, I figured out what you do? And I said, really, what is it? And he said, you connect dots. And I thought, yeah, I guess I kind of do. Because I can hear one thing and I think, well, you know, that reminds me of that. Or somebody will say something about West Virginia and I'll go and lose a story about a man named Jerry.

David: You bounce all over the place, yes. One of those stories, that's actually one of the most popular videos on YouTube from you, is the Burn the Boat story. And we've got a great question about that so let me read a question from John and then we might play your old the Burn the Boat material.

Andy: Oh yeah.

David: So people know exactly what we're talking about.

Andy: Yeah, yeah, that'll be cool.

David: Let me read this question first. Andy I have enjoyed listening to the podcast every week. I've even had my three children begin listening to them so that we can discuss the topics.

Andy: Oh so I have become punishment in this family. You kids, you straighten up, I'll make you listen to that podcast.

David: It's podcast time again kids. No, no. That's funny. Ok, John continues, I recently heard a YouTube video of you talking about Burn the Boats. After hearing this I was wondering which boats have you had to burn in life? Thanks for what you do and then John goes on to say, that he's a physician and that he recommends *The Traveler's Gift* and *The Lost Choice* frequently to his patients. So John thank you very much for the question, thanks for what you're doing in recommending the books. Andy he brings up the Burn the Boat story so before we get to what boats you have to burn in life.

Andy: Yeah, give me a chance to think about it.

David: Yeah, let's play the audio of the Burn the Boat story.

There was a great story about some ships that set sail on the final leg of a voyage. This was in April of 1519. And the final leg of the voyage was to take them from Cuba to the shores of Yucatan, where they were going to take the world's richest treasure. This was a treasure of gold and silver and artifacts and jewels. And the world knew about this treasure. This was no secret because people have tried to take this treasure for centuries. In fact, the same army had held this treasure for 600 years. And conquer after conquer, had tried to take this treasure. Everybody knew it was there but nobody could seem to do it. Incidentally conquering was kind of a thing back then. I mean, I know that we're kind of politically correct now and we don't believe in going and stealing other people's land and taking their treasure, but this is what they did then. I mean, you could major in college, you could do English or science or conquering, I mean, there's a job description, ok. And so this guy, his name was Hernando Cortez, this whole story started back in Spain years before. And this guy, Hernando Cortez knew about the treasure just like everybody else did. Now he was already a wealthy man. This was already a very wealthy man in Spain. But more because of the challenge than anything else, he wanted to gather a group of people to go there and take the treasure. Now he knew that if he was going to do it, he was going to have to gather a group of people whose level of commitment was beyond that which ordinary people considered commitment during that day. So he would talk to them, he knew the first step to getting them going, getting them excited, was to lay a vision in front of them. And man he did, he laid this awesome vision in front of them of what their lives are going to be like, if they took the treasure and what their families would live like and how generations would benefit from them taking the treasure. And he got everybody pretty fired up. And this whole voyage took, get this, 11

ships, a 100 sailors, 500 soldiers and 16 horses. And I don't who told the horses about the deal but everybody was fired up when they left, ok.

Now half way across the ocean, Cortez knew he had a problem, because everybody's fired up to leave. But half way across the ocean he knew some of these people are turning into whiners. You know, some of them were like, mr. Cortez this isn't what we thought it was gonna be, you know. Or this, you know, we've prayed about it and we don't think God wants us on this ship at this time. Which was amazing to him because these were the same people who came to him and said that they prayed about it and that this was an answer to prayer. And I mean, in Cortez's mind, he couldn't figured out because God didn't change his mind, to Cortez. But anyway, he knew that he had to take these people and raise their level of commitment beyond that which ordinary people consider a commitment. So when they landed on the shores of Yucatan, they didn't just march in and take the treasure like people had tried to do in the past, 600 years remember, the same army had held the treasure. So he stopped among the beach. And they talked about it again. And he cast that vision for them again about what their lives are gonna be like and what their children would, and how they. I mean, it was unbelievable. I mean, he stopped them and they stayed there for a couple of weeks. They had seminars at night and probably listened to tapes and cassettes, I mean it was unbelievable. And they would sing songs and it was incredible. And finally the day came for them to march in and Cortez knew one more time that before they went in and fought, he had to raise their level of commitment. So he gathered them around and he stood up and they quieted. And as they, and they thought they were going to get the speech like, when we get in there, if the arrow start flying, you meet me at the coconut stop and we're out of here. But what he said, three words that changed everything. He leaned over them and as they quiet down he said, burn the boats. And they said, excuse me? And he said, burn the

boats, burn our boats. And he torched them. Burned all eleven boats. He told them, if we're going home, we're going home in their boats. Well an amazing thing happened. They really thought well. I mean, they took the treasure. First time it had been done, in 600 years. First time the treasure had changed hands, they took it. And of course they took it, why? Because they had no choice, take it or die. And I'm sure, don't think they didn't consider that, we can take it or we can die. I guess we're taking it. I mean, this was pretty easy decision. But they took the treasure.

David: Alright, that was the Burn the Boats story. That's the audio actually from YouTube. If you're listening to this on iTunes, we're providing weekly notes and summaries for these podcast episodes. So if you're not getting those emails, make sure you go to andyandrews.com, enter your email address and you will receive these weekly podcasts every Saturday morning with notes. And included in this week's episode is a link to the YouTube video that you just heard the audio of. There's so many great videos on the Andy Andrews YouTube page and we will always include those links in the podcast email. So make sure that you're signed up and that you're receiving those on a weekly basis. Andy how has it been since you listened to that Burn the Boat, I know it's in your head constantly but.

Andy: Yeah, it's been a long time. It's actually been long time since I've done that. You know, you guys told me recently there's more than 24 hours of material and so obviously when I do, even if I'm doing a day somewhere, I'm really only doing four of five hours of stuff. And you just can't do everything. And I'm trying to learn as hard and fast as I can and so it's rare that I'm doing something I did a long time. But when that was playing I really, I got this mental image, first time I ever did that was in Salt Lake City, Utah, in the old Salt Palace. It was an old arena, the Salt Palace. I don't know why I remember that, but that's the first time I ever did it. But I've always loved that story because it's so apropos to just really almost everybody's life, because everybody has either done that or needs to do it, or

sometime we run into situations in our life where we need to do it again. And I guess if we're growing, we do.

David: Absolutely. Well John's question was after he heard that video; he was wondering for you specifically, what boats have you had to burn in your life? Was there something that inspire you to create that material for others? Was there something personal that you went through?

Andy: You know, there really wasn't anything personal that inspired that story. I think that when I found that, that true thing, I was so fascinated by it. And I always try to figure out when I read something of the history, I'm trying to figure out what does that mean to us today, how can we use that? What's the value in that, for living our modern lives? And I think at that point, that's where I made, probably made that connection, that there are things that we need to, you know, have that where there is no going back or, you know, stop doing certain things. And so I think I probably casually apply that at first and then got maybe more serious about it as I began to think about it.

David: I was going to say, maybe it has become, maybe for me, become as a reference point. Maybe there wasn't anything specific that inspired it initially but now that you have it, now you've got it in your head, it is a reference point

Andy: Boy, that's a great way of putting it, because, and there's so many times that, because that's like a principle, that's a guidepost in our lives. Being aware of that can make our lives better. And so, not being aware of it cannot allow that better man to occur, if that makes sense. And it's just like, I've said this a lot and this makes a lot of sense to me so I say this a lot to an audience, and that is that principles always work. And people don't think about that a lot but it is important to have things in our lives, in our hands, that, I mean, how awesome is it to have

something that you can rely on, that this works this way every time, principles work. But it's probably more life changing to know, because this really, I want you to understand what I'm about to say, it really affects your level of growth, and that is, it's more important to know that principles work whether you know them or not, that there are principles out there working whether you know them or not. And so this is the key. We've heard, ignorance to the law is no excuse. Well ignorance of principle is no protection from the consequences of violating that principle, just because you didn't know it.

So that means that just because you don't understand something and gosh, that really, I got into that situation, I just didn't really understand. Well ok, but you're still having the consequences. And gosh what would have happened different in life if you had known it? And so what that does to me, it puts me on a path way of reading stuff, history and trying to figure out, how does this apply to me, how does this apply to my friends, how does this apply to my family, the future of my kids? How does this apply to my life? And so, that is one of them that I never really paid attention to the things I might need to get rid of or whatever, until that one hit. And so I guess to his question, and I can answer this pretty quickly. One of these might be, I've got two things. One of them might be something that everybody goes, yeah, ok, well I would've figured that. And that would be that there have been, boats I have burn, some of them have been people.

David: Relationships, right.

Andy: I hate to say it that way but there have been relationships that have run their course or relationships that did not need to continue past the moment that you really kind of met them or had the opportunity to form the relationship. And you know, Henry Cloud is a friend of mine, dr. Henry Cloud, and he and I do the smart conferences with Dave Ramsey together. Which I always, I laugh. I always

hate to say, yeah, I'm doing the smart conference. I always want to tell people, I'm sure they named that before they asked me to be a part of it. But Henry Cloud has a book called *Necessary Endings*, and it is the doctoral thesis on burning the boats.

David: Just in a relationship sense specifically.

Andy: Yeah, and really, just in life in general. But there are times, they're necessary endings for certain situations. And so there have been times that I have realized that this person or this situation and sometimes it's been, it's not that the person was bad or anything like that, it's just that, there are certain things that I am very aware of, I am supposed to do with my life. There are priorities, there is a purpose in my life and I'm very aware, I feel like I'm aware of what God is wanting me to do with my life. And so there are priorities that you know, for Polly and I, our boys and time with our boys, that is a priority. And I'm so sorry but it is a priority over people who want to fly in and have lunch. It's not that I don't want to have lunch with people or whatever, but you know, Kevin Perkins has been my best friend since the 10th grade, I don't know, I've had lunch with Kevin, I don't know how long it's been. But so there are certain people that you begin to delete.

David: Right.

Andy: And boy that sounds bad.

David: But no and we've talked about the need for that before and I think you bring up a great resource and going further into that, *The Necessary Ending* book, by dr. Cloud, that's a great resource. And actually I think this is a good question for some of our listeners. You know, we'd love to hear from you on what are some

of the boats you've had to burn? We'd love to learn more about that and if you have additional follow up question on this, I know we'd love to read that. This is a very interesting topic, I feel like Andy we might be able to bring this back up on a future episode.

Andy: I've got more, before we go, I've got more interesting answer here. And also before we go, let me put this bug in your ear and Matthew, and that is, make sure Henry knows that we're talking about him on this episode and man, let's get him on a podcast.

David: And we can get his thoughts on this.

Andy: I would love to get Henry on the podcast. He's an awesome guy. But here is an interesting thing that I realized that I've had burn the boats on, and that is, doing what I do and who I am, and understand when I say, who I am, that sounds like there's a lot of significance, oh you write books. But I'm not saying who I am in that sentence, I'm saying, I'm a dad, I'm a husband and who I am and there's no more significance in that than who you are and who Joe Blow is, and who that guy is. It's just who I am as a human being, on this planet. This doesn't really have a ton to do with my career so to speak. But because of my purpose in life and because of who I want to become and who I am in the process of becoming, one of the things that I've had to burn the boats, or had to burn, is some conveniences. There are some things that would make my life more convenient, that would make me easier to deal with professionally. And I'll give you a great example. When I fly in to do an event or I fly in to an area, I get picked up, right. We have learned through the years that you don't want me driving a rental car. I mean...

David: Well if they want you there on time.

Andy: Exactly. You know, because I'll get lost, I'm thinking about other stuff. You know, Polly just, sometimes I'll be in the car and I realize Polly has kind of gone quiet. And I'll look over at her and she'll be kind of leaning against the door with her arms crossed. And looking at me, kind of smile, I'll say, what? And she'll say, where are you? I say, what do you mean? And I'll look around and I'll say, oh, oh, yeah, I drove past our driveway, didn't I? And so you don't want me driving a rental car. So you guys have learned, we're gonna have Andy picked up.

Well one of the conveniences, it would be easy, who picks him up? Well, not a woman. And so I know that, that is less convenient for some people to have to, if it's going to be a woman, it's going to have to be two or three of them, you know. But it needs to be a guy, or a guy and a woman, or something like that. And again, it's not me, but I'm a husband, I'm a dad. And I don't need anybody thinking any weird thing, I don't need any possibility of any.

David: No questions right.

Andy: Yeah. And so, sometimes people meet me at my hotel room, and we stopped that when we realized that sometimes it would be a lady who would take me to the venue. You know, because some of these huge hotels, how do you find this ballroom that you're gonna speak out? So now I'll meet them in the lobby. But I'm not gonna have a lady come knock on my hotel door and me come to the door and us leaving together. And so, it's like, I tell coaches and dads and business people sometimes, I said, look, this may sound, I don't mean this to sound rude or whatever, but I tell them, you don't have to be caught, you don't have to have somebody take a picture of you in a strip club. All you need is to have a flat tire and change the tire in the strip club parking lot and have somebody take a picture of you driving out of the parking lot. Totally innocent, but man that picture.

David: Doesn't look innocent.

Andy: Will ruin your career.

David: That's right.

Andy: So anyway, one of the things that I've had to burn and there is a lot of corollaries to that, but are certain conveniences, life would be easier if I didn't really care.

David: That's good though. That's very true. And again, I'd love to hear from others.

Andy: I do too. We're going to get Henry.

David: And we will try to get dr. Cloud on here, for sure. Well John thank you for that question. Andy thank you for your thoughts. If you'd like to join in on this conversation, there's two ways to do it, intheloop@andyandrews.com. Send us an email with your thoughts, on this topic or with your question that you'd also like to hear Andy's thoughts on. Or call us and leave us a voicemail 1800 726 2639, tell us your name, where you're calling from and what your question is for Andy. And we will try to get to that on a future episode.

Andy: And just remember, *we're living on the air. Here, in Franklin, Tennessee.*

David: I'm thinking, a turkey, it's just raining from the sky.

Andy: Yes, as God as my witness, I thought turkeys could fly.

David: Alright. Thanks Andy, we'll talk to you next week.

Andy: Thank you buddy.

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Would you like to run something by Andy? Contact us and your question might be featured on the show!

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