



MEDIA RELEASE – MAY 12, 2011

It has recently been revealed that James Middleton has dyslexia. According to an article in the Sydney Morning Herald¹:

Mr. Middleton, 23, suffers from dyslexia and chose to memorize his two-minute-40-second-long Romans 12 extract rather than read it from the Bible and risk jumbling the words,

The result was a word-perfect recitation - the only reading to be included in the ceremony - delivered with ease, sincerity and confidence, while millions of people watched across the world.

Dyslexics can learn to read without sounding out words. In fact, sounding out words hinders our reading. Still, the ability to successfully memorize words is not a sufficient strategy to be a proficient reader. Memorizing words appears to be reading however, for a dyslexic, it is empty of meaning. As Australian author Mem Fox² stated, "Sounding out words correctly is not a competence which proves meaning is being made, and if there is no meaning...there is not reading. All there is, is an empty ability to make sounds from symbols on a page.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Middleton successfully delivered his speech without 'sounding out words' therefore he was unhindered in his delivery. Imagine if Mr. Middleton had to sound out the words as he read out loud...what a different speech it would have been.

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¹ <http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/people/after-kate-and-pippa--another-middleton-does-rather-nicely-20110512-1ejug.html#ixzz1M7SHLp4l>

² Australian Educator, Summer 2005, No. 48