

## *Messing Up the Compass*

When an ocean liner sank along the Irish coast many years ago, the maritime world was bewildered. Because the ship's captain was an excellent seaman, no one could figure out what caused the accident.

Divers were sent down, and one of the items they brought up to examine was the ship's compass. As they opened the compass box, they found the point of a knife blade inside. Apparently, while cleaning the compass, an unwary sailor had broken off the tip of his knife, which had become lodged inside the device.

It was just a tiny piece of metal, but it was enough to cause the compass to give a bad reading. As a result, the ship took the wrong course and crashed into the rocky coast.

We, too, can be shipwrecked if we begin to think that little things – gossip, fibs, carelessness, envy – are not harmful. That's why our words, our deeds, and our attitudes must always be kept free of any sin that can disrupt our credibility and our professionalism.

– Beecher Hunter