

Are You Willing To Help?
Luke 10:25-29
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Someone once said, "Christians are like fertilizer: pile them up in one place long enough and they'll begin to stink, but spread them out, and they'll do some good." It's true! So many Christians spend all of their time huddled together and so they miss out on a key purpose in their life: Doing good to others. The Bible calls this ministry. Each of us should be looking for an opportunity to minister to others and make their life a little better. We should look for opportunities to help our neighbors by conducting acts of love. We should ask "How am I treating outsiders or those who aren't like me?"

1) In what ways do you think the following people are hurting?

- a) The poor
- b) The homeless
- c) Those who have lost loved ones
- d) Those who don't know Jesus

2) Three attitudes toward people in need: Luke 10:30-37

- a) **Keeping My Distance** – Luke 10:3; Exodus 19:5-6 (NIV) – The Priest (minister, pastor) saw him from a distance and crossed over before he got there.

We see this attitude in today's "priest". This attitude says "I see you from a far and not interested..." Can you think of a time you "passed by" someone in need?

- b) **Curious But Uninvolved** - Luke 10:32; Numbers 3:11-13 (NIV); Deuteronomy 10:8 (NIV) – The Levite (minister, pastor) saw him, walk close to him, and crossed over.

This attitude says "I see the need and I'm interested enough to notice, but I don't want to help."

- c) **Treating Others How I Would Want To Be Treated** - Luke 10:33-35 (NIV, NLT) The Samaritan saw him, walk to him, and took care of him.

This is the attitude of the Good Samaritan. Jesus would love for each of us to have the same attitude. Basically, it's the attitude that says: "If I was in this situation, how would I want others to treat me?" Lev 19:17-18 (NIV); Matt 22:36-40 (NIV)

3) Things consider when helping others

- a) **Open your eyes and look around.** Where do you come in contact with hurting people? What needs do you see in your day-to-day life? Write down a few needs you see every day.
- b) **Take a look at yourself.** What are you good at? What do you like to do? What type of needs tend to grab your attention? Discovering how God's shaped you helps you figure out how you can minister to others.
- c) **Take A Chance!** - Give it a try! If at first you don't succeed, try something else. God wants each of us to have a "ministry" that shows others His love for them. Take a chance and you might just find your ministry!

James 2:8-9 (NIV) – Show kindness to everyone

1 Peter 4:8-11 (NLT) - "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others."