

 Discovery Series®

WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR

CHRIST'S COMMAND
TO HELP THE HURTING



GARY BLACKARD

Created by Our Daily Bread Ministries
in Partnership with Adult & Teen Challenge

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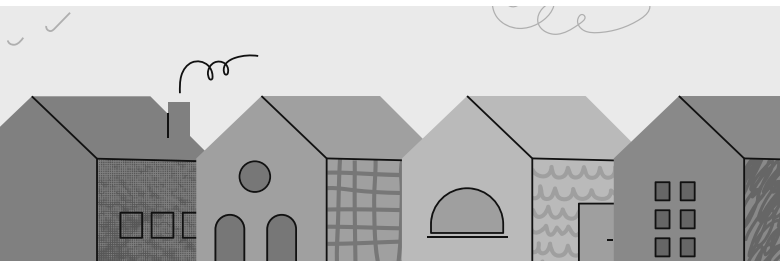
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introduction

Who Is Your Neighbor?

Christ's Command to Help the Hurting

It's easy to believe that helping the hurting requires enormous effort on our part, and sometimes that's true. However, we can also help in small ways that make a huge difference. In this booklet produced in collaboration with Adult Teen Challenge, Gary Blackard walks through the parable of the Good Samaritan to highlight four principles of helping. By following Jesus's example of sacrificial service, we can all learn to help others in both big and small ways.

by Gary Blackard

contents

one

The Good Samaritan principles5

two

Principle One: The needs of others should fill us with compassion. 11

three

Principle Two: Helping others means helping everyone.14

four

Principle Three: Helping others is both a physical and spiritual act.18

five

Principle Four: Jesus Christ clearly commands us to go and help the hurting......21

six

How can we implement the four principles?.. 26

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one

The Good Samaritan Principles

Just outside a popular Washington, D.C. restaurant, I saw a man sitting against a wall with a sign, asking for help. I was on my way to a lunch meeting, but I had to do something as I felt the prompting of the Lord. As a colleague and I walked by him, I stopped, bent down, and pulled out a \$20 bill. I asked him his name and if I could pray for him. He said yes (perhaps eyeing the money but maybe open to prayer as well), and I proceeded to hold his hand and shoulder and pray for him. When finished, I could tell right away the man was

very grateful. I gave him the twenty dollars, and he thanked me with an authentic smile and firm handshake. I never saw him again.

Often, when we think of helping someone, we assume it takes much sacrifice, and many times it does. But sometimes, helping can be in the little actions. Sometimes in helping someone, you may see no fruit or positive outcomes, but the little actions can be seeds planted or small progress made in someone's life. We may also think people will take advantage of our help in a self-serving manner, and sometimes they do. While we must be discerning, we need to be very careful that discernment does not become our excuse for refusing to engage with the hurting when we are supposed to. We may not get along with some people or we might think negatively about a certain "kind" of person. This, however, does not excuse us from helping any of them. In fact, Jesus commands us to help.

It's hard to believe how much need there is around us. Many within our circle of family and friends have major needs and problems that we may know nothing about. But sometimes, we are aware of their burdens, yet we just need help understanding what to do or how to assist. Too often, we excuse ourselves from helping because of time, money, stigma, shame, ignorance, or fear. But none of these are acceptable excuses to Jesus. He has promised to help us help others. Jesus's supernatural power is stronger than any excuse we can make, any fear we can have, or any reason we can offer not to help others. If we allow him to work through us, his power will enable us to

serve others in a way that meets people at the point of their need.

Luke, the physician and apostle, describes the story of Jesus Christ telling a parable about a Good Samaritan. A parable is a story that has a deeper meaning within itself. Parables were (and still are in modern times) used as teaching aides, giving the listener the excitement or thought-provoking plot of a story while incorporating a deeper teaching moment, whether philosophical, relational, economical, or theological.

In this story, which is found in Luke's gospel (10:25–37), Jesus is speaking with a lawyer who asks him an initial question: “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus replies with his own direct question: “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” By responding with a question, Jesus is helping the lawyer, who thinks about the law for a living, with finding the answer in the Law of God (as a side note, the Jewish Pentateuch—or the first five books of the Old Testament—is the Law of God that Jesus is referring to). The lawyer responds with quoting two verses—one from Deuteronomy and the other from Leviticus. He says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus tells him he has answered correctly and to do what the Law of God says and he will live (basically, he will live a good, holy life). The lawyer then asks a second question, “and who is my neighbor?” (The Scripture tells us the lawyer asked this to help justify

himself since living out God's Law at the time seemed impossible). This is the question that leads Jesus to use a parable to bring a larger message to the lawyer and to those who were present.

Jesus answers the lawyer's question, "who is my neighbor?" with the following story:

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." (LUKE 10:30-37)

In this story, we find four characters: the man who was beaten, a Jewish Rabbi (priest), a Levite, and the Samaritan man. Robbers have beaten and robbed a man, leaving him severely injured to the

point of being “half-dead.” Imagine the scene. The road between Jerusalem and Jericho at the time was seventeen miles long and dropped over 3,000 feet in elevation. This road was considered dangerous to all. The Jewish historian Josephus tells of its dangers in his historical writings as well. Here along this road, a man lays dying. Bloodied and bruised, he is helpless and stranded as people pass by. A priest and a Levite walk by, and they even cross the road to further distance themselves from this hurting, vulnerable man. Finally, a Samaritan walks by, sees the man, and immediately begins to help him. He even uses his own resources: a little wine to cleanse the wounds and perhaps soften the pain, and a little oil to help protect the injuries. The Samaritan then places the man on his own donkey and takes him to an inn where he can rest comfortably and recover. The Samaritan pays for all of this out of pocket.

With this parable, Jesus upended the beliefs of the Jewish population he was speaking to. As Moody’s commentary points out, the Jewish culture would have wanted the story to say the man was going to Jerusalem (not leaving it). Their culture would have insisted that it was the priest and Levite who helped the man, certainly not the hated Samaritan (in their version, they would have cast him as the robber). This is important as Jesus was deepening the meaning and moral of the story.

For further context, the Samaritans and the Jews hated one another. There was no love lost between the two groups. The fact that Jesus had a Samaritan be the hero of the story would have been

unheard of in that time, especially within the Jewish community. Another contextual point is that it was not uncommon for priests and Levites to walk this road. Both of these groups performed temple duties in Jerusalem and Jericho. However, having the priest and Levite refuse to help as they walked by the beaten man would have been considered contrary to what Jesus's audience would have expected.

What can we learn from this parable? There are four key principles that every believer should learn and live by when reading this story.



two

Principle One

The needs of others should fill us with compassion.

In this story, we read that when the Samaritan sees the man, he has compassion (or is filled with compassion). In the Greek language, the word *compassion* means to feel compassion, to have pity on, or to be moved. The Samaritan was “moved” when seeing the broken man, so much so that he took immediate action. Merriam-Webster’s dictionary defines *compassion* as “a sympathetic consciousness of others’ distress together with a desire to alleviate it.” This definition implies sympathy coupled with an

urgent desire to aid or to spare. Compassion is not just feeling sympathy for someone, but it creates a strong desire to do something about it. This is exactly what the Samaritan did. Jesus himself was moved with compassion when he saw the crowds of people around him (MATTHEW 9:35–38). Paul wrote to the Colossian church to have compassionate hearts (COLOSSIANS 3:12).

What does this look like today? Hal Donaldson grew up poor after losing his father in a car accident. He and his family struggled for years. As a result, Hal developed a compassion for those struggling in poverty. He wanted to help those who faced disastrous situations and, as a result, were having a hard time putting food on the table. What started as food deliveries paid for with his own money has now become Convoy of Hope, a disaster and relief ministry helping those in need in the United States and in over one hundred countries around the world.

How can we apply this principle in our own lives? We must be filled with the love of God in heart, soul, strength, and mind. Once the Lord changes our hearts and transforms our lives, his Spirit fills us with the fruit of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22–23, which then enables us to have compassion on others. It must start with your relationship with Christ. Jesus and this lawyer have already given the most important answer to eternal life. If someone loves God with all their heart, soul, strength, and mind, they are living according to his commands, including accepting Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as Lord and enabling the Holy Spirit (the third member of the Trinity) to work within their life. Those truly

loving God follow his laws and are filled with the fruit of the Holy Spirit (GALATIANS 5:22-23). This fruit is filling life with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. Jesus is the only one who can fill you with his compassion for others. As your relationship with Christ blossoms, your obedience is strengthened. His love (fruit) fills your heart so that as you see others hurting, you obey his command to love one another. You engage in helping others, because in doing so, you have done it unto Christ himself as he tells us in his Word.

What immediate actions can we take to grow in compassion for others?

- Pray intentionally for the compassion of Christ to fill your life.
- Seek small opportunities to help others, such as visiting and helping your neighbors or volunteering in a community center or non-profit on a short-term basis.
- Study compassion in the Bible using aides like commentaries and concordances.
- Be obedient – as you pray, the Lord will bring opportunities your way. Be sure to obey his prompting to engage with others.



three

Principle Two

Helping others means helping everyone.

t is true that we each have “spheres of influence” or those people in areas of our lives that we can touch or influence. It is also true our lives can be expanded to reach others as Jesus opens doors for us. The key here is this question: Are we open to whatever those doors might yield?

Pastor David Wilkerson was reading a LIFE magazine in 1958. This rural, country pastor in Pennsylvania could not get the article about New York City gang members and murder out of his mind. What those teenage boys had done was horrible,

but still, Pastor Wilkerson was praying to the Lord, stating that someone should help them. The Lord responded in a still, small internal voice, “Why not you?” Pastor David left for New York City and walked into the courtroom, only to be thrown out. It was then that he caught the media’s attention and they took a photo of him holding up his Bible. That same photo was printed in all the local newspapers. Feeling deflated but not giving up, Pastor Wilkerson began to walk the streets in a suit and tie, witnessing to gang members. He had access to them because the photo in the newspapers gave him some credibility as someone trying to help.

Why this story? It’s a perfect example of someone being “moved” with compassion, hearing a call from God, and being obedient to do something about it. It’s also a story about helping others, even people who we may not like, or those we might see as enemies or criminals. Many people gave up on the gang members. Wilkerson did not. And certainly, God doesn’t give up on anyone. He is willing that all should come to him.

Are there people around you that you could be helping, but you don’t reach out to them for any number of reasons? Are you thinking “big enough” as God reaches into your heart and fills you with compassion? One person, empowered by Christ, can make a significant impact. Again, are you thinking big enough on what God may be calling you to help with? The fact is millions in America alone are struggling with some form of addiction. Pornography, alcohol, drugs, sex, gambling, and

technology all have their deadly influence on millions. But it doesn't stop there.

Our enemy, Satan, uses distractions and idolatry to keep our eyes and hearts off of Christ. He will use anything to keep us from seeking Jesus first. Money, shopping, health, sports, and work can all become idols in our lives, slowly removing our focus from loving God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind. We must seek him first and keep him as our first priority. Then all these things will take their rightful place in our lives, without becoming sin.

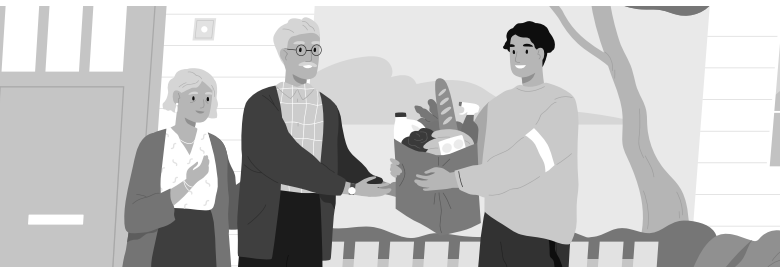
As believers, we have significant opportunities each day to influence and help those around us because everyone struggles with something at some point in life. We can become the hand to pick someone up, the smile that lifts someone's spirit, and the friend that binds up wounds of all kinds. Unfortunately, we can justify why we don't help someone pretty quickly, and we all do it at times.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., when preaching on the parable of the Good Samaritan, said many times we are simply asking the wrong questions. The priest or Levite may have been asking, "If I stop to help, what will people think of me?" Have you ever asked this question when considering helping someone? Another bad question we often ask, according to Dr. King, is, "If I stop to help, how will it impact me?" We may think, "Will I have time to do what I need to do today? Will it cost me money, time, or other resources?" Dr. King said the real question is, "If I don't stop to help, what will happen to him?"

We need to ask this question constantly: “How can I help?” This is a strong question for us to ask daily. It is four simple but powerful words. The word “how” implies multiple ways to possibly help. The word “I” puts the ownership on myself and no one else. It gives me the responsibility alone. The words “can” and “help” imply action. I am not just thinking about helping, but I am engaging in ways to show the love and compassion of Christ.

What immediate actions can we take to help others—meaning anyone and everyone?

- Be intentional in asking the Lord for opportunities to help anyone (he will answer this authentic prayer).
- Speak to family and friends and ask if they know of anyone who may need a helping hand.
- Speak to your church leadership and ask them. Volunteer on a church team to help in communities.
- If you or someone you know is struggling with some form of addiction, visit sites like readynow.org or recoverymeans.com where you will find resources and small groups to help.



four

Principle Three

Helping others is both a physical and spiritual act.

Let's revisit the story once again. As the Samaritan was walking along the rocky road, most likely watching his steps as he progressed down the slope, he came across the man lying on the side of the road. As the story tells us, he was moved with compassion for the man. Once moved, he immediately went to the man. There was no waiting to hear advice or stopping to ask questions about what happened. The Samaritan man (most theologians believe he was a businessman) saw the

urgent need and determined to physically help the dying man. We are told that he bound up the wounds of the man, pouring on oil and wine for medicinal purposes. He placed the injured stranger on his own animal and took him to a local inn where the man could recover from his wounds. He paid the innkeeper two days' wages and told him that if he required more to care for the victim, he would repay him when he came back.

There are three things we can take away from this part of the story: 1) the Samaritan gave his own resources, 2) he took the time necessary to care well for the man's needs, and 3) he ensured there was follow-up to the initial care provided. This is a good model for all of us. Perhaps you have been thinking about mowing the lawns for the elderly in your area. Applying this model, you would use your resources (equipment, gas, etc.), spend the necessary time to care well (not only mowing the yard but having a relational conversation with the elderly), and ensure you followed up (scheduling mowing visits, identifying other needs, etc.). We can use this model for any kind of help.

One more point: Helping others always requires sacrifice. You may sacrifice time, money, equipment, personal talent/skills, or other things, but sacrifice will happen. This is good. Giving from and of ourselves is what the Lord asks of us. We are told in Scripture to not grow weary in doing good (for others), for in due season we will reap a harvest (GALATIANS 6:9-10). The very next verse says that as we have opportunity (remember, we pray for these opportunities to come), let us do good to everyone,

and especially to those who are fellow believers. Christ is in our midst when we serve and help others. In helping others, we obey the Lord, who then honors us for our obedience.

What immediate actions can we take to show physical and spiritual support?

- Assess the skills and abilities God has given you and ask him to use them to help others. God has already equipped you with what you need to help others.
- Pray intentionally for the vulnerable and hurting in your neighborhood and city. Make it a point to write down the names of people you have heard that need some form of help and pray over that list daily. At the same time, see what you can do, just as Pastor David Wilkerson did in his obedience to the call.
- Are there ways you can simplify your lifestyle to be able to give away things you don't need to those who may need them? (If you are giving things away, be respectful enough to give away things in good condition.)



five

Principle Four

Jesus Christ clearly commands us to go and help the hurting.

Our relationship with Jesus Christ is not intended to be a passive one. The Bible is clear about believers doing the work of God, not just believing in God. Christianity has too often been used as an excuse to wait until God does something. While waiting on the Lord is good in many seasons, the Hebrew word for *wait* or *waiting* is active. This means we still must do our part while we wait to hear from God. This could mean prayer, fasting, volunteering, working, or all of the above

while we listen to what God wants from and for us. This is “active” waiting.

In our story, Jesus closes out the discussion with the lawyer by asking him a question. Let’s look at what he asks:

“Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You go and do likewise’” (LUKE 10:36–37).

Jesus asks the lawyer which of the three (the priest, Levite, or Samaritan) proved to be a neighbor to the man who was beaten? In asking this question, Jesus wants the lawyer to think for himself. Jesus reinforces what the lawyer knows to be true: We are to act just as the Samaritan did. We are to take action to help the vulnerable, even if they may not be like us. The words Jesus responds with are a direct command. They are intended for anyone who reads them. The parable was told to get this message across: “You go, and do likewise.”

Let’s look at this phrase deeper. Jesus directs it personally when he says “you.” We are not to look at others and say this is their calling or this matches their gifts or talents. Jesus did not command everyone else; he commanded you. He commanded everyone to have compassion, which leads to action, just as this parable shares. You may think you don’t have what it takes to help someone, but you do. We all do. Jesus gives us everything we need to engage with those who are hurting, vulnerable, and may be unlike anyone we would ever associate with. It’s through his strength, grace, mercy, and, of course,

his love that we can do all things to bring glory to his name. We must go.

And in the going, we must not only help spiritually through prayer, counseling, and sharing the Word, but we are to “do likewise,” just as the Good Samaritan did. He met the physical needs as best as he could. Jesus emphasizes this in other Scripture passages as well. In Matthew 25, Christ speaks about those who fed, gave water, and clothed others in his name. Just imagine what our world would be like if every one of Christ’s followers actively engaged the vulnerable and met their needs. There would be little to no need for government intervention programs because the church would be the ones caring for the wounded, the hurting, and the downcast.

The prophet Isaiah speaks to this as well. In Isaiah 58:6–12, the Lord speaks of fasting and how the nation of Israel was treating fasting poorly. They were fighting, seeking their own pleasure, and oppressing the workers. Instead, the Lord tells them they should be focused on loosening the bonds of wickedness, setting the oppressed free, feeding the hungry, and helping the homeless find homes, even bringing them into their own homes.

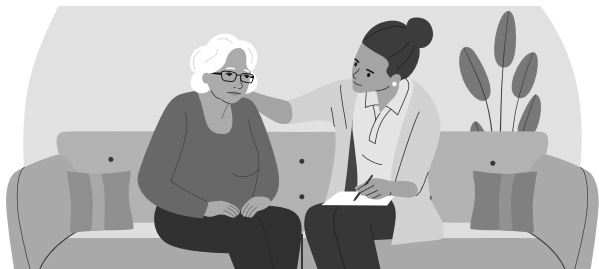
When Jesus tells the lawyer to go and do likewise, he is expecting action in ministering to others. He expects the same of us. The apostle Paul writes in Romans 12:13 that we should contribute to the needs of believers and seek to show them hospitality. My grandmother told the story of when she and my grandfather were young parents, and they had very little money. One afternoon, she realized there

was no more food in the kitchen and she prayed for provision. A little time passed, and there was a noise at the kitchen door, which faced an alleyway. When she opened the door, there were two bags of groceries sitting on the ground by the door. She praised God for this answer to her prayer. The Lord used someone to place those groceries at their kitchen door. Someone was being obedient to “contributing to the needs of believers,” and as a result, my grandparents and their children were blessed for it.

As the love of Jesus fills our hearts, we should see his love flow out of us toward others. In fact, one of the scribes in the time of Christ asks Jesus which commandment is the greatest of all? Jesus responds by saying, “The most important is, ‘Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (MARK 12:28-31).

In this response, Jesus tells us to love others as we love ourselves. This love requires being with people, loving them where they are, and helping them when there is a need. In the ministry I serve, we see thousands of people come through our doors who struggle with addiction. One of the greatest joys I have is watching our staff engage with someone fresh off the streets. That person may not smell good or they may be detoxing or in withdrawals at the moment. Yet these staff members love on them,

telling them there is hope, and that we are there to help them and their families (if applicable). We see our staff show the love of Christ to the most vulnerable and hurting every day. This is what love does. Jesus fills us to overflowing and we in turn show others that same love we have experienced.



six

How can we implement the four principles?

Martin Luther said, “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” William Wilberforce stated, “Of all things, guard against neglecting God in the secret place of prayer.” The apostle Paul tells us to pray without ceasing.

There is power in our prayers. So, the first action is to be intentional in your prayer life, asking God to use you to help others. A simple, powerful prayer is, “Lord, use me. Please show me ways to help others. Please place me in positions to meet the needs of

those who need You.” If you consistently pray this type of prayer in authentic love, God will answer it.

A few years ago, I was visiting Southern California for a series of meetings. My wife and I grew up in the area and raised our family there. As a result, I was reminiscing one day and decided to go to a local fast-food place that we took our children to from time to time. I had ordered my food and was waiting for it when a lady walked through the door who was homeless and looked disheveled in her appearance. I overheard her ask for food from one of the employees, and before he could respond with no, I quickly said that I would buy her food. My food arrived, and I went and sat down in the back of the restaurant, just wanting to eat and relive the memories of our family eating hot dogs and french fries. I noticed the homeless woman waiting for her food and I prayed this prayer: “Lord, if You want me to interact with her, then let me know.” Once she received her food, she walked to where I was seated and asked if she could eat with me (a direct and quick answer to my prayer). We had a nice discussion, as I asked her many questions and heard about her life story. When we were finished, I asked to pray for her, and did so. While she wasn’t ready to accept Jesus, she was very friendly and thanked me.

I share this story for two reasons. First, I have seen God answer these types of prayers in my life consistently. I know he will do the same for you. Who do you need to pray for? As you go about each day, there are many opportunities to simply pray to be used by the Lord. Perhaps to bring joy to a barista at

your local coffee shop or maybe to show compassion to someone struggling in the lobby of a doctor's office or hospital. The second reason I share this story is that many times we don't see the results or answers we are expecting. That's okay. We must leave the results to God.

The second action we can take is to practice observing those around us as we go about our daily activities. Oxford Dictionary defines *observation* as "the action or process of observing something or someone carefully in order to gain information." When we practice observation, we begin to carefully see what is happening around us, which helps us see where we may be a blessing to others through words and/or actions.

The U.S. Military has a term for this type of observation. They call it situational awareness. Situational awareness is the ability to observe the environment you're in, recognize behaviors, changes, or other potential influences, and then adjust your own behavior because of what you are seeing in real-time experience. Some would say there are four stages to situational awareness: observation, orientation, decision, and action. So, using my own story above, I observed the woman walking into the restaurant. I then oriented myself to understand more, decided to engage by paying for food, and then took action to pay and later to pray.

As we watch for opportunities, we then need to actually take the action to help. Observing someone is one thing. You can observe someone without helping them. It is only in the action that helping

takes place. The Samaritan had compassion when he saw the beaten man. This was good; however, he didn't stop there. He took action by providing oil and wine for medicines and by taking the victim to the nearest bed space and paying for it with his own money. The action doesn't need to be big or require much all the time. In fact, many of our actions can be small in nature, but just as effective in helping others. Again, sometimes we may never see what our actions generate in the lives we try to help.

I remember sitting with a man—I will call him Henry for privacy—who was in his thirties but physically looked to be in his fifties due to the drugs and alcohol that had ravaged his body. Henry was high on a drug when he and I spoke. We sat on a couch at a homeless shelter, eating barbeque meat my team had provided. I asked him questions, and he responded with surprising coherency. Due to his mental state, we just prayed for him and asked the Lord to open his mind to who God was. He thanked me for sitting with him and then left. I never saw him again. I wonder sometimes what happened to Henry. But I know one thing for sure. I was glad I was able to show him that I cared because who knows how God will use that in his life? I don't know what the end result will be for Henry, but I can do my part in the meantime.

We know addiction impacts almost everyone in some way. Most people know someone who struggles with life-controlling issues such as alcohol or substance use disorders, gambling disorders, pornography, gaming disorders (yes, there is such

a classification), and many others. In fact, over 48 million Americans qualify as having an alcohol or substance use disorder. Why does this matter? Because they need the church. They need believers in Christ who will go and do likewise. They need people who will stand in the gap with them, taking actions to help them in the recovery process, recognizing it all starts with introducing them to Jesus through compassion and care.

The stories of those struggling with addiction are often filled with trauma. Childhood abuse, whether sexual or in other physical ways, is a significant factor for those with long-term addiction. Many had parents who were struggling themselves, often using their children to get more drugs. Some in addiction have made horrible choices, never realizing the true consequences of their actions until it was too late. These stories and these people should fill us with compassion. We all know of someone—maybe even a family member or friend—who has been in addiction. Are you burdened for them? Are you praying for them? Are you offering support in any way you can?

Jesus tells us to go. Go and do what the Samaritan did. Be diligent in helping those God has placed in your life, if only for a season. You never know what one engagement can do.

The story goes that a Sunday school teacher, Ed Kimball, pursued young Dwight Moody, showing up at his workplace (a shoe store in Boston) and leading him to Jesus over lunch. Moody became one of the greatest evangelists of all time, impacting tens of

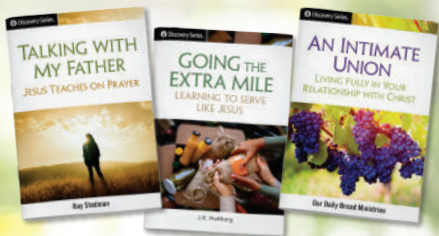
thousands of lives. One of the lives he touched was a young pastor in Britain named Frederic Meyer. Meyer then felt the call to be an evangelist and he preached in Massachusetts, where a young man named Wilbur Chapman heard him. Chapman enlisted a volunteer named Billy Sunday who took over Chapman's evangelism ministry. Billy Sunday coordinated a crusade in North Carolina and evangelist Mordecai Ham was invited to preach. In the crowd that night was a young 16-year-old named Billy Graham. Billy Graham accepted the Lord at that crusade and went on to become the evangelist who has reached more people for the gospel than anyone in history. It all started with Ed Kimball having compassion for one of his kids in Sunday school, a kid who slept in his classes Sunday after Sunday.

You never know what the impact will be when God uses a life. Will you let him use yours? Will you be the neighbor Christ speaks about? May we all answer the call.

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 Adult & Teen Challenge

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How do we get started in helping the hurting around us?

Sometimes the small things make the biggest difference. Discover how the parable of the Good Samaritan highlights four principles of helping in both big and small ways. As we look at Jesus's example of sacrificial service, we can also learn what it means to truly help the people who need it the most.

Gary Blackard is President and CEO of Adult & Teen Challenge (ATC). Gary also serves as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Southern California. Gary and his wife Debra have two married children and four grandchildren.

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