



Givers Make a Difference

(Sample Sermon)

Luke 10:25-37

by

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God is at work in our world of violence and uncertainty. Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan highlights the response Jesus expects of His followers. He wants us to:

Give With Compassion

Compassionate giving begins with an awareness of need and moves to a practical response. When confronted with an urgent need, the Samaritan responded with genuine concern (vv. 33-34). John wrote, *If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him* (1 John 3:17)?

Countless appeals are made for your money, but let informed compassion guide your giving. Your church has a knowledgeable, budgeted approach to meeting needs. When you give through your church, you know the ministries your money helps make possible. Giving with compassion will strengthen your church's outreach to others.

Give With Commitment

The wounded man recovered because the Samaritan committed himself and his resources to help. He gave to the man, then to the innkeeper, and then pledged to give whatever additional money was necessary for the man's care (v. 34-35). What generosity! His giving reminds us of the early Christians who, despite serious needs of their own, insisted on sharing in the relief offering for the poor (2 Corinthians 8:4-5).

Giving is strong when motivated by commitment to Christ and to the mission He gave to His church. Paul encouraged the Corinthian church to move from good intentions to solid commitment (2 Corinthians 8:10-11). Committed givers give. Committed givers plan to give. Committed givers keep on giving as God gives them opportunity.

Missionary Clark Scanlon once told about a deacon in a poor area of rural Guatemala whose livelihood depended on the produce of a vegetable garden. While the missionary worked with the man's church over several weeks, the man reported on the garden's progress. After an evening service, the deacon brought out a huge head of cabbage for the missionary. "Here is the biggest head; I have just picked it, and I want you to have it." The man explained, "Here is the first, the biggest, and the best of my crop; and I want to dedicate it to the Lord." Such is the spirit of a committed Christian giver.

Give With Completeness

The Samaritan gave himself, his time, his supplies, and his money (v. 34). He withheld nothing. All he had was used to help the one in need. Can God count on all you have to help fulfil the mission He entrusted to us?

A reluctant or half-hearted response is not *worthy of the calling* we have received (Ephesians 4:1). It takes our abilities, time, resources, and money to enable the church to be its best as the body of Christ. The challenge - give with completeness.

Conclusion: Jesus ended the story with a challenge. "*Go and do likewise.*" Listen to Jesus, care about others, and give in the spirit of Christ!