

Being Concerned About My Brother

LUKE 10: 25 – 37

¹ And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, *what shall I do to inherit eternal life?* ²⁶ † He said unto him, *What is written in the law? how readest thou?* ²⁷ And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. ²⁸ And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. ²⁹ But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? ³⁰ And Jesus answering said, A certain *man*[†] went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. ³¹ And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked *on him*, and passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*, ³⁴ And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. ³⁶ Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? ³⁷ And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. ²

Opening Emphasis:

¹ *The Holy Bible : King James Version.* electronic ed. of the 1769 edition of the 1611 Authorized Version. Bellingham WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1995, S. Lk 8:1-40

† A Greek word occurs that is not directly translated in the *King James Version.*
Greek Strongs: 1161

† A Greek word occurs that is not directly translated in the *King James Version.*
Greek Strongs: 444

² *The Holy Bible : King James Version.* electronic ed. of the 1769 edition of the 1611 Authorized Version. Bellingham WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1995, S. Lk 10:25-37

The lawyer attempted to be deceptive in his questions to Christ [“What must I do to inherit eternal life? “And who is my neighbor?”]. Jesus seized the opportunity to teach the lawyer that the law convicts us of sin but does not bring the change necessary to inherit eternal life. Only the life changing love of God through Jesus, Christ can enable us to show the compassion needed during seasons of difficulty. (Scriptural References: Galatians 2:16, 21; 3:21 and Romans 3:20)

Suggested Reasons for a Lack of Concern:

Fear (1)

There are many reasons people do not show concern for others. Luke describes the Priest and Levite, who are well known religious figures in the community as passing by a wounded man that was near death. They could have been fearful of being identified by the robbers. So often fear hinders men from showing compassion for each other. It may be that they fear being targeted by others who are responsible for the pain inflicted upon someone or they fear being recognized as the one to help a brother out when in need.

Ignore on Purpose (2)

It was customarily known for the Priest to travel on the estimated twenty one mile journey from Jerusalem to Jericho. The Priest was a highly respected position in the community. But it is recorded in this narrative that the Priest saw the battered man, which was in all probability a Jew, and walked passed him as he lie on the street as though the man didn't exist. Men often ignore the need of another brother. When you see enough pain it is easy if we are not careful, to become subconsciously numb. At least the Levite looked on the victim. He made a conscious effort to see what happened. Even though he didn't help, the Levite took note of the situation.

Status (3)

Both the Priest and Levite had recognition and status in the Jewish community. It could be perceived that their title and level of responsibility was a hindrance to taking the appropriate action. Unfortunately, there are men in the church who have knowledge of right and wrong and see others hurting but will not show concern because of their status in life. They see it beneath them to stoop down and help a brother during a crisis.

What Happens When There Is Concern?

1. We don't ignore our brother's need or pain.
2. We have compassion or God fearing love.
3. Compassion translates into action.
4. Action becomes sacrificial without resentment.
5. We demonstrate concern for any brother or sister regardless of race, gender, age, cultural background etc.