

THE GENEROUS LIFE



PART 4: The Lifestyle of Generosity | Sunday, June 5, 2016

Matthew 5:14-16 (NKJV) You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Luke 10:25-37

- Two people see an interruption—but one person sees an opportunity.

1. Where we see _____, God sees opportunity.

- We all have three choices when it comes to life's interruptions:
 - I don't care; I don't want to get involved.
 - I care; but I am too busy to stop and help.
 - I care enough to stop and do what I can to help.

2. Opportunities don't always make _____.

Luke 10:33 (AMP) But a Samaritan (foreigner), who was traveling, came upon him; and when he saw him, he was deeply moved with compassion [for him]...

- We feel sorry for individuals who are in real need, but do we really feel compassion for them?

com·pas·sion: an intense feeling of wanting to help someone who is sick, hungry, or in trouble; to sympathize with and put oneself in the shoes of the downtrodden.

3. Interruptions are never _____.

Matthew 14:12-14 John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. ¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Matthew 14:14 (NLT) Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

- Jesus felt compassion for those who were there. Enough compassion to get out of the boat and do something to help them.

Matthew 14:15-21 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." ¹⁶ Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." ¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. ¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

4. Opportunities need to be _____.

James 2:14-18 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶ and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? ¹⁷ So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. ¹⁸ Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."

- The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. And the first to forget is the happiest.