

North Fort Myers Church of the Nazarene

Messenger

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The Practical Samaritan

But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.

"And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

"Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

"But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

"On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.'

"Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?"

And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same." Luke 10:29-37 (NASB)

In the church, we find ourselves so often faced with instructions like the ones from Jesus above, where He outlines a need, illustrates what it looks like to meet the need, and instructs His listeners to be certain to purposefully follow His instructions to meet those needs in their world. However, we can often become overwhelmed by the level of need with which we are faced on a daily basis. It seems, from the lines of our church's food distribution, that the hungry surround us. From the numbers of people who ring our church's doorbell each week asking for money, the needy are ever-present. From the numbers of charitable organizations asking our church to donate to their cause, the needs and

opportunities to give money and help are never-ending. So, how do we respond when it is clear the needs appear to be beyond our ability to meet?

Part of the answer lies in the fact that Jesus gave, as an illustration of those whose needs we are to meet, a victim lying on the road upon which the "neighbor" was walking. The Samaritan was illustrated as meeting the needs of the one who was in his path. Well, if we are expected to meet every need that comes across our path, again, the need would be overwhelming.

So, the rest of the answer also lies within Jesus' illustration – "and when he saw him, he felt compassion." When we are interested in following Jesus' commands, our heart softens and our level of compassion increases. Also, the Spirit of GOD speaks to our conscience, and we more readily recognize that Voice. Therefore, we become reliant upon the Spirit of GOD to lead us in our desire to fulfill the command to show mercy to our neighbors.

Ultimately, the path we take in showing mercy becomes a matter of practicality. If we believe our lives are directed by the Holy Spirit, then we must also believe we are only going to be directed to meet the needs which the Holy Spirit directs. We also need to realize the needs will require a practical solution. We are not always asked to provide for people physically. But when we are, following the direction of the Holy Spirit will always provide the best way to meet the need. No matter what we sense the Spirit of GOD prompting us to do, we can be assured He will not ask more of us than is possible. Therefore, we can lay aside any fear that more will be asked than we will be capable of doing.

We also need to realize that what will be asked of us most often will be to simply listen, to care, to keep confidences, to visit, to give what we already have in service to people who are more needy in spirit than they are in body. We can also offer to pray – as long as we are willing to listen to the Voice of the One to Whom we pray – so that when the Voice asks us to be the good Samaritan, we don't miss His prompting to "Go and do the same."

Pastor Becky

4 – Jim & Susan Corle
 6 – Susan Corle
 8 – Laurel Chapman
 11 – Jamie & Susie Lorenson
 13 – Steve Parker
 18 – Janet Van Skiver
 20 – Elmer & Sue Jones
 26 – John & Marie Haddad
 Arnold Burris
 27 – Ernie Rybolt

October Happenings



6 – Pumpkin Delivery
 8-31 – Pumpkin Patch
 8 – LAMB's Meeting
 10 – Food Distribution
 11 – Church Board Meeting
 31 – Trunk or Treat
 Busy Hands Craft Sale
Nov. 3 – Retired Missionaries luncheon at Der Dutchman

Prayer Needs:

Dan Bowker
 Laurel & Dorothy Chapman
 Paul & Grace Boling
 Orion Predko
 Sheryl Colie & Family
 Ernie Rybold
 Kenny & Gail Goodman
 Raymond Jungles
 Steven Leo
 Sandy Reedy
 Marlene Ryan
 House of James Ministries
 Our military, our leaders & our nation

Craig Smith
 Janice O'Lynn
 Matthew Morgan
 Phoebe Barr
 Joseph Groves
 Regina Williams
 Bonnie Rose
 Annie Krapu
 Janice O'Lynn
 Pearl Buchkoski
 Kitty Baxter
 A Youth Pastor

Patrick Lindsey
 Michael Romano
 Ida Chaplow
 Beth Kurland
 Eileen Massett
 Alice Daugherty
 Eileen Jennings
 Ken Vandelinde
 Jeff Werling
 Jerry & Deane Werling
 George Smith
 Unsaved Loved Ones

Heather Clark
 Ryan Woodby
 Ardyth Eldridge
 Mark & Kim Barr
 Louis Perez
 Phyllis Obney
 Vanessa Hinckley
 Cody Church
 Betty Retter
 The Nation of Israel
 Janet VanSkyver
 Our Church Leaders



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

We need volunteers to help with the distribution on Wednesday, October 10, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, to help with a variety of tasks. Please spread the word to anyone you think could benefit from this special outreach and join us as we partner to help those in need. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in North Fort Myers.



INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

Don't forget! Denise Horton, a local Independent Insurance agent from North Fort Myers, who specializes in Medicare Health Plan benefits, will be sharing with our folks during our Wednesday night potluck dinners beginning October 17. She will also be scheduling appointments to meet with individuals on Fridays from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the church. Medicare open enrollment season begins October 15, 2018, and lasts through December 7, 2018. Make plans to be present during our Wednesday night potlucks and stick around for Bible study.

GET READY FOR TRUNK-OR-TREAT

This year, our church is offering our neighborhood families an alternative to Halloween in the form of "Trunk or Treat." Instead of kids going door-to-door to get candy, they will walk through our church parking lot and go from trunk-to-trunk, getting to know our folks, having lots of fun, bagging loads of candy and getting exposed to the North Fort Myers Church of the Nazarene.

With Trunk-or-Treat, the trunk of your car becomes your front porch, giving you the opportunity to decorate the trunk of your car or gate of your SUV or van in fun and inviting ways, making your display a delight for families and fun for lots of children.

With October 31st falling on a Wednesday night this year, we know our neighborhoods will be surrounded by moms and dads escorting their costumed kids from house to house looking for candy and fun. We want their night be safe, and we want all those folks to have the opportunity to get to know our church and our people.

We would like for all our people to get involved and participate. Sign up in the foyer and then find an idea online or come up with your own theme – decorate your trunk in family-friendly themes (PLEASE, NO SCARY, SPOOKY, DARK, DEATH-THEMED, DANGEROUS OR DEMONIC trunks), gather up your candy, dress up if you want, and get ready to have a blast as we reach out to our neighbors. There are lots and lots of ideas online for decorating themes. Here are just a few:

<https://www.thedatingdivas.com/trunk-or-treat-ideas/>

<http://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2012/10/more-fun-halloween-activities-on.html?m=1>

<https://totallythebomb.com/super-simple-trunk-treat-ideas>



PUMPKIN PATCH



OCTOBER 8 - 31

9 A.M. - 7 P.M.

We need all hands to the patch!

Sign up to help

sell the pumpkins

hand out our story/coloring books and

recipe books

and share the love of Jesus

with our neighbors.



Prepare For Watching

1 Peter 2:11-12 (NASB)

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

I have noticed, and maybe you have too, that we are being watched everywhere we go these days. There was a time when it was just at the bank or maybe in the checkout line at the department stores. But today every store has a multitude of surveillance cameras, to say nothing about traffic cameras – not just at intersections – but along every street and highway. It is very hard, if not impossible, to avoid being caught on camera 50 to 100 times a day.

Even though there were no video cameras in Peter's time, he knew that the world was looking at these new Christians and trying to see what they were all about. You are being watched. That's always a good thing to remember as we interact with people at work or in the community. How we respond to frustrations, annoyances, difficulties, and temptations is a witness for Christianity, and the last thing we want to do is misrepresent Christ.

Many times, challenging situations arise unexpectedly. Therefore, it's important that we prepare ourselves beforehand — then we'll be equipped to display Christlikeness, and our witness will not be derailed.

In order to prepare – to be ready:

Stay in God's Word. Knowing Scripture helps you view situations from God's perspective and know how He would have you respond.

Pray. Challenge yourself to make prayer an immediate response to your problems. When you bring your concerns to God, His peace will guard your heart and mind, which is a powerful witness to a watching world.

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Trust and obey. When you rely on God's promises, your peace and confidence in God will stand out to those who are consumed with fear and anxiety.

Remember whose you are. You belong to God and have been purchased by the precious blood of Christ.

1 Peter 1:17-19

If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. Your life is a display of God's grace, and your character, conduct, and conversation should always reflect Christ.

Be gracious and kind to others. Don't let your own troubles erupt into anger and blame. Small acts of kindness and a forgiving spirit are a tremendous witness in a world where such things are rare.

We had a minister of music one time who took his car to an auto mechanic that was a member of our church. When the music minister got the bill, it was more than he was expecting and he verbally blew up at the lady who handed him the bill. It hurt the lady's feelings and embarrassed the mechanic. The mechanic was ashamed to admit this man was from his church. In light of the fact that the whole world is watching, to say it is important to guard our witness in any and all circumstances is an understatement.

Aggravations and problems seem like hindrances to us, but our response to them can change someone's life if it reflects the love of Jesus Christ.

How do you handle yourself in front of the world? Their watching!

Blessings, Pastor Van

**Guard
Your
Heart**

"Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life."
-Proverbs 4:23

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