

THE KEY TO A JOYFUL LIFE



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In the midst of crisis, when people’s hearts are filled with fear and dread of the future, how is it possible to experience peace, joy and fulfillment? It depends on where your focus is.

THE KEY

A story has been told of a wise Principal who brought balloons to school and told all the school’s pupils to blow them up and write their name on their balloon. After which the children then tossed their balloons into the hall.

The Principal then moved through the hall mixing them all up. The children were then given five minutes to find the balloon with their name on it, but though they searched frantically, no one found their own balloon.

Then the Principal told them to take the balloon closest to them and give it to the person whose name was on it. In less than two minutes, everyone was holding their own balloon.

The principal said to the children,

“These balloons are like happiness. We won’t find it when we’re only searching for our own. But if we care about someone else’s happiness...it will ultimately help us find our own.”

THE PRINCIPLE OF LIFE

Jesus declared what the principle of living a full and fulfilling life was...

“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over [with no space left for more]. For with the standard of measurement you use [when you do good to others], it will be measured to you in return” The Bible: Luke 6:28 (AMP).

Wherever you live, all around are many lonely, fearful, unhappy people. Let your life be filled with helping others.



YOU ARE CALLED TO BE A LIFESAVER



Read Luke 10:25-37.

Jesus said, the fulfilment of all the requirements of the Law of Moses is found in one sentence...

“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, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”

An “expert” in the Law who was challenging Jesus, asked...

“Who is my neighbour?”

...and the Lord answered with the story of the good Samaritan.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Here, in this story, we find an illustration of the very heart and nature of God. It is expressed in the Saviour who gave His life to meet the needs of a damaged humanity, and is now to be expressed in each of us as the “new creation” in Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

We who are followers of the Lord Jesus, are called to fulfill in our life here on earth what the Samaritan did in that day.

The Samaritans and the Jews were sworn enemies. History had produced a mutual hatred. The man lying on the road, injured by robbers, was a Jew. That Jesus used a Samaritan as the “hero” of his story would have been disgusting in the ears of the Jewish man listening. The fact that the two religious leaders in his story - the priest and the Levite - refused to help the man, was a strong message to the “expert in the Law”. In the same way, our “neighbour” is not only the person living near us but stretches out far and wide, even to those who hate us, who may be enemies of the Lord and of our faith in Him, or who are of a different race, or who have nothing in common with us.

The good Samaritan met the needs of the injured man in three ways:

Compassion

“But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion...” v.33.

He took pity on him. Compassion is the all-important ingredient needed in our hearts. Even though we may not have had the same experience as the “neighbour” has had, releasing the ministry of the Holy Spirit within us, we identify with them. We have a heart of empathy and understanding. As the Word exhorts us...

“...weep with those who weep” Romans 12:15.

Sacrifice

“...he...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” v.34.

The Samaritan met his physical needs out of his own supply. Sacrifice is another all-important aspect needed. It is a major choice the Lord has given us - to be like Him. Following Him involves a total surrendering of the new lives we have in Him, All we are and all we have is now His...

“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me” Luke 9:23.

Ongoing help

Prior to the Cross and His ascension into Heaven, the Lord had prepared His disciples and comforted them...

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you” John 14:18.

He was speaking of the Holy Spirit whom He would send. His finished work on the Cross and Resurrection would give them new Life - spiritual birth as children of God (John 1:12). The Holy Spirit would continue as their ongoing helper, fellowshiping with them through all the experiences of life and helping them grow to full maturity in Christ (John 14:15-26; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Romans 8:28-29). This is the life, as followers of Jesus, we have now come into.

The acts of the Samaritan in his ministry to the wounded man pictures this as he puts him into the care of the innkeeper....

“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’ v.35.

We, too, can bring the ones we are ministering to, into an ongoing help, connecting them with others qualified to help them further - physically, mentally and spiritually. Jesus said...

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” John 10:10.

THE LORD'S COMMISSION

As the Lord Jesus said to the man in front of him that day, he says to us who are His followers today...

**“GO AND DO
LIKEWISE!”**

THE RETURN



The glorious Day is drawing near when the Lord Jesus Christ, like the Good Samaritan, will return for those he has rescued, saved and given new life.

(John 14:3).

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’” Matthew 25:34-40.

May we all receive the wonderful words of welcome awaiting us...

*“...Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord”
Matthew 25:21 (NKJV).*