

Words Are Not Enough

In Luke 10:25-37 we find the story of the Good Samaritan. In this story Jesus gives the challenge that words and appearances are not enough. If we claim to love God, then we need to live like him.

The story talks about a man going on a journey from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he is attacked by robbers and left half dead on the side of the road. While he is lying there the Priest and the Levite, so called 'Religious People' pass by without showing any care. Surprisingly, the Samaritan, the enemy hated by everyone, gave this man the help he needed. At great personal cost, the Samaritan loved and cared for this man in a way that no one else did.

The Priest and the Levite would have known the right words to say, how to sing choruses, how to pray and they would have been respected individuals in their church. Yet it was the Samaritan who showed the love of Jesus. True religion that pleases God is to live and love like Jesus, to reach out to the poor, the lonely, the oppressed and to love them with everything we have.

The story was told with the backdrop of these famous words: "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." Jesus identified these as the most important commandments in the whole entire Bible. Why? God is a God of love and if our faith in him is genuine it must be shown in acts of love and service to others.

Often as believers we can be caught keeping up appearances. We might say all the right things, go to church, pray and worship but our actions and the way we treat others can tell a very different story. In James 2:14 James asks the question what good is it if we claim to have faith but have no deeds to show it?

God wants us to be active in our faith, living our lives wholeheartedly for Jesus and by our lives pointing others to Him. It is so important that we give our lives to the needs of others, becoming like servants that we might become a walking, talking example of the love of God.

Put it into Action!

In your community there will be people who are like the traveler in the story and need some help. You can decide to ignore these people like the Priest and the Levite did, or to love them like the Samaritan. In your area identify someone who is struggling. They may be sick, lonely or struggling to feed themselves. Together with 1 or 2 friends, make a commitment this week to love and to serve this person.

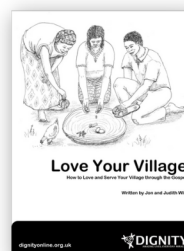
Pray that:

- 1) God will show this person how much he loves them.
- 2) The Holy Spirit will guide you, showing you what to do.



A Life Group in Chitembo, Zambia went around their village to see who was struggling. They met a 72-year old lady, living on her own with no support. She said her family had gone to the next village. She had no food. The Life Group looked for her family, but could not find them. So they cared for her themselves, buying a plot of land for her and working to plant it for her.

- Pilius, Luapula, Zambia



This lesson is taken from "Words are not enough" taken from "Love Your Village".

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