

# Does Anyone Care?

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interest but each of you to the interests of the others.”*

Philippians 2:3-4

The Bible tells how a man lame from birth went daily to the temple and begged for alms. One day as he was at the gate, the people he asked included Peter and John. Peter told him *“Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”* Peter took the hand of the lame man, and the Bible says he was *“walking, and leaping, and praising God.”* That day many followed Peter and John to hear more after seeing the man lame from birth walk. Acts 3:1-9 KJV

The lame man was blessed that day; he was able to walk. We don't know his name. He was another one of those who is unknown to us, but known to God. We may be unknown to many people, but we are always known to God. We are blessed everyday if we just take time to look around. We too, should be leaping for joy and praising God.

Peter and John were also blessed because they cared. And, because they cared, God sent them the healing power to help the lame man and God further helped them in their ministry. It was a win, win, win situation!

Merciful is defined as loving, compassionate, kindhearted, forgiving and gracious. Those are difficult goals for us to reach all the time. It is easy to be that way when everything is going our way and when the other person is easy to love!

When we help someone, we often feel blessed. Maybe that is why we are told we get more blessing by giving than receiving. Oh, it is nice to get. But sometimes a person needs a little help or a hug or a greeting, or just someone who cares enough to ask “How are you doing?” And then listens.

Kids need to be noticed and told they have done well. Older folks need to be appreciated for the knowledge they have accumulated over the years. All need to be thanked for taking time to help someone else, and not always thinking of self. Then the one giving and showing mercy receives more. It is sort of a paradox. The more we give, the more we receive.

In the musical 1776 John Adams sings a song “Is Anybody There?” The questions he asks could well have applied to the situation in the colonies at that time and especially the men meeting in Philadelphia as they contemplated becoming independent of England, but

*“Don't tell someone to get over it. Help them to get through it.”*

Sue Fitzmaurice

they may also be questions that any one of us could ask at times depending on a situation. Some of them were actually putting their lives in jeopardy by their actions.

John Adams saw a new nation. From reading his biography, we surmise that he was rather difficult to get along with at times, but we can also be thankful for his persistence as Americans today. We can feel very strongly about something and see many benefits, but sometimes we seem to be the only one that sees it that way.

We see people struggling as John saw the colonies struggling, but we do not get involved. We turn the other way. We can see someone being hurt psychologically or even physically, but we are often hesitant to step in and get involved. We don't stand up for the person. Sometimes if someone would just try to help and say a kind word to a person or even dare to get involved, it would mean so much.

The following quote from John Adams is still relevant today.

*“Is anybody there? Does anybody care? Does anybody see what I see?”*

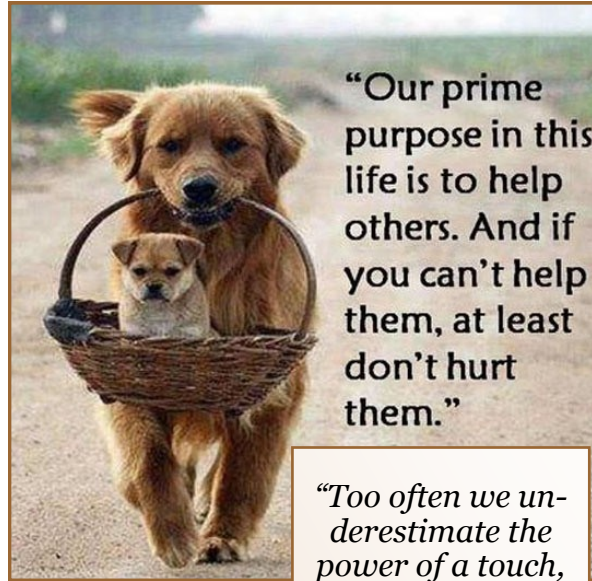
Often do we think we are serving our Lord and doing His will while refusing to love our neighbor and we are actually violating His fundamental commandment to love our neighbor as our self.

**Power always thinks... that it is doing God's service when it is violating all his laws.**  
John Adams

I know a gentleman who walks with two canes. One day as he was leaving the office in pouring rain, he was struggling to cross the street to the parking lot with two canes and an umbrella. A lady stopped her car in the middle of traffic, got out and helped him to his car. His regret is that he didn't even get her name. He thanked her, and then she got into her car and rode off. I'm sure she had a warm feeling that she had helped someone, and while he appreciated it, he wanted to show her more thanks, but she didn't do it for that reason.

We can get such a warm feeling when we help someone else and that should be our thanks. Little things can bring big rewards to each of us in many ways.

*"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you"*  
John Bunyan



**"Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them."**

*"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."*  
Leo Buscaglia



Prayer: Christ, You came to serve us. You came and blessed us with so much that we often forget that everything we have is a gift from You. Help us to care for others and lead our lives to accept others as they are and show Your love by the way we treat others. Amen.

1. How can we stop thinking about ourselves and think about others?
2. How can we put ourselves in the shoes of our neighbor?
3. How can we experience true love for our neighbor?
4. Can you dare to reach out and touch the unlovely or just someone who has been hurt?
5. Would you dare to step out and defend a friend or foe?

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info@rgscripts.com

Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person.