

Love Thy Neighbor in Service

Watch Your Step



A blind man who could see? The Lord sends messages in so many ways and we often miss them if we are not looking.

We have been helping Paul and his twin brother Bill for approximately five years. Their story is one of a difficult childhood having been through substantial abuse as children and thrown out of the home when they were 12 or 13 years of age. Since that time life has been an endless stream of poor choices making all the guilt, shame and fear of who they were even worse.

Paul has recently begun to improve moving away from drug use and toward the Lord. I have learned you never know how long Paul's efforts will last. However, since he has been working on his faith, he has been improving. I have never seen anyone make a serious effort toward the Lord and it not be life transforming. The simple practice of being in His word (the bible) daily and praying daily will have dramatic effects in anyone's life.

The transformation normally happens over a period of

months to years. For many, that type of discipline is either too difficult or simply not quick enough. I know of no mature Christian who is not consistently doing both. Daily bible study and prayer are the first two program requirements of Love Thy Neighbor. The concept is not new. In Deuteronomy 17:19 (NIV) the King is told to have the scriptures and read them daily. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV) we are called to pray continually.

The story of the blind man was a wonderful example of seeing what is really important in your life. It is very simple, but often we have no desire to see. If you look in your checkbook and all of your money is spent on you and the things you do, you are greedy.

No one talks about this in church because in the U.S.

we are all so guilty of being greedy. We simply do not see it, and have no desire to go looking. So it is with actually knowing the Lord.

And The Answer Is...

Ask almost anyone who is a Christian if they would like to know the Lord better and almost all would quickly say yes. A few honest individuals may say no. The honest individuals actually understand coming to know the Lord almost certainly means some type of change in their lives, and they may not want that change. For the rest of us the test of our desire to know the Lord is simple.

How often do you pick up His word? How often do you pray? The answer to those two questions will tell you about your real desire to know the Lord. Simple answers normally require simple tests. The excuses we can come up with why we cannot do those two things are endless. The blind man showed both Paul and I the truth.

Paul was in McDonald's one morning, and he said a blind man came in carrying a bible. Where the man was going or what his plan for the day may have been I cannot tell you. He apparently moved close to

(Continued on page 2)

Love Thy Neighbor

Program Services

Christian Counseling

Telephone Resource Services

Shelter

Transportation

Food

Emergency Cash Assistance

Ask how you can help!

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Matthew 22:39

Love Thy Neighbor In Service

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If you have a desire to really come to know the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit in a true way, there are a few simple steps to take. Email me for this life changing information.

What can you do?

We need your prayers! It is the most important thing you can do for the ministry.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

(James 5:16 NIV)

LTN is committed to spreading the Gospel by Christ's example to "love thy neighbor as thyself." Matthew 22:39. To this end, LTN has designed programs with the purpose of helping clients build a relationship of faith in God, regain their dignity and eventually, regain their self-sufficiency. Contact us to learn more about the services and programs.

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(Continued from page 1)

where Paul was sitting. Either feeling Paul next to him or hearing him, the blind man asked Paul if he would read him the bible. Not only could the man not read because of being blind he did not have a brailed bible. So he was left to ask strangers to read to him.

Paul responded yes, and the reading aloud began. Paul said, "The blind man would periodically say 'Jeeesus' loudly whenever Jesus name was read." Of course people would look over whenever he would do this. Paul proudly proclaimed he kept reading for the man

anyway. After some period of time Paul and the blind man went their separate ways with Paul actually being able to see for possibly the first time in his life.

We often tell an analogy downtown. The question is posed: If you were offered \$4,000,000 to be at a specific location next Thursday at 2:00 PM, would you be there? Faces light up and the answer is always, of course, yes. As a matter of fact I might go there today and sleep there until next Thursday. The reason for such drastic action is the person believes the money would be life transforming.

What would you be willing to do to come to know and meet the creator of the universe? Most people would say they would go to great efforts to find and know Him. His word is probably already sitting in your house and you can pray anytime you would like. If you are not already in those

activities daily you believe other things are more important. I did for most of my entire 49 year life. It is an effort so simple you can't imagine anyone not immediately changing their daily habits and making the time.

Be honest with yourself and ask why you may not have this simple practice? The first thing you come up with is not normally the real answer. I don't have the time. Stop, and actually take five minutes without the cell phone, your PDA, laptop, TV, radio or Internet. Simply be quiet. What is the real answer? Why not make the change!!

May God bless you!

John Chapman, Jr.