

Evangelism

Part 2

One door that God had opened to us as a church to spread His word and the message of salvation is through the care to those who are harmed, underprivileged, injured or crippled by the work of darkness. The Scripture teaches us further points in regard to this matter:

A. “30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ 36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” 37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10:30-37)

The above passage speaks about how the priest and the Levite avoided the half dead victim but the Samaritan man when he saw the victim he responded to the call of God and moved and did the needful. What are the points that you can learn further:

1. Remove the victim from the area of dangers: It is important thing to do as first aid is to remove the new people that we are reaching from the hands of robbers, and from whatever things that will worsen their condition and make them deteriorate more: to remove them from the effect of usury, wasting money, and wrong advices. In **John 10:10** Jesus said, **“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”** As you move forward and evangelize, you are the servant of Jesus and you are called to help those people that you are reaching and to deliver them from the hand of devil and its vices. The Samaritan brought the victim to a safe place **“Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.” (Luke 10:34b)** We need to bring the people that we are reaching to safe places so they can recover peacefully and enjoy the goodness of the Lord to them.

2. Deal with the victim directly and not through intermediate: There are many in the body of the Christ who collect money in the name of the Lord to help victims and injured people. But those people might be like the priest or the Levite in the above Scripture who saw the victim and did nothing for him.

3. You cannot use your money without putting your hands: The man who helped the victim as we read in the Scripture he was travelling, when he saw the victim he was moved with compassion, **“He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.” (Luke 10:34a)** For effective evangelism you need to see the wounds and

examine carefully the damages there and assess the disability so that you will know what to give advice and what a decision that you need to help the victim to take and to do.

4. You cannot use your money without physical suffering: The Samaritan man carried the victim and put him on his donkey till he brought him to the inn, **“Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.” (Luke 10:34b)** There is no white job in serving the Lord. Suffering is part and parcel for effective evangelism.

5. Spent when it is required: **“35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said,” (Luke 10:35a)** There is a time that we need to spend money in order that we will be able to extend further our spiritual care and follow up. In such circumstances we need to spend. That is also showing us the importance of saving.

6. Follow up is an important step for evangelism: The Samaritan man said to the inn keeper **“and when I return,” (Luke 10:35)** Because he knew that he needed to follow up the person in order to complete the work that God called him to do in that person's life. You need to understand that evangelism will only be effective when accompanied by proper follow up to the people that God called you to disciple them.

B. “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (James 1:27)

Caring for widows and orphans is another important method of Evangelism. When we bring the word of God and his love to those who are widows and orphans we are evangelising. In fact, widows and orphans are the concerns of God and from the Old Testament as we can read in **Deuteronomy 26:12** **“When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.”** The Israelites were responsible before God to care for the widows and the orphans who were around them. In every town there were widows and orphans the people made accountable to look after them.

Widows and orphans were by no means abandoned by God. The Lord would provide for them as we read in Deuteronomy 26:12. As well as we can read in **1 Kings 17:7-16:** **“7 Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the LORD came to him: 9 “Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.” 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” 11 As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.” 12 “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don't have any bread--only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it--and die.” 13 Elijah said to her, “Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be**

used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.' " 15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah." In this passage was made very clear that God provided for that widow after she had heard and obeyed the word of God that Elijah preached to her: *"13 Elijah said to her, 'Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.' (1Kings 17:13)* Widows and their children will be well provided by God when they hear and applied the Word of God that the church is telling them.

What we conclude that the provision of God to the widows and orphans is accompanied by their obedience and their application to the word of God. When that widow obeyed Elijah, God's promise came true in her life, *"For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.' (1Kings 17:14)* God sent Elijah to that widow to provide for her. Jesus mentioned that in *Luke 4:24-26 "24 I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon."* Elijah was not sent to the widows of Israel because they were not willing to hear and apply the word of God.

Evangelism and showing the love of God to the widows and orphans and to the rest of the underprivileged categories like the sick, those in prison and the rest is never without discipleship and emphasizing on holiness. You must know that giving and caring without emphasizing on holiness is neither evangelism nor God's love.

Further direction on the same topic of caring for the widows we can read from *1Timothy 5:3-5 "3 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. 5 The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help."* (1 Timothy 5:3-5) The children and the grand children are responsible to care for the widows, and in return the widows should show dedication to God, putting their trust on Him and living in holiness. Widows who are in need should trust God, obey His word and be good example to others in the body of Christ in life of holiness and in service.

"6 But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives." (1Timothy 5:6) Widows who live for pleasures are unworthy of any support. *"7 Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame."* (1Timothy 5:7) These instructions from the bible is needed so that everyone would know how to deal with the issue of widows:

"8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (1Timothy 5:8) Children and grandchildren are called to provide for their widows parents and grandparents, and the widows are called to be obedient to God's Word and to live in holiness." *16 If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need."* (1Timothy 1:16)

"9 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, 10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds." (1Timothy 5:9-10) Below the age of 60 they can work and they don't need to be supported, unless they are sick and their body is unfit for work.

"11 As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. 12 Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. 13 Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to. 14 So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. 15 Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan." (1Timothy 5:11-15) Younger widows they need to be taught more and guarded more against the temptations of lust and immoralities. They need to be taught to work, and to marry if that is applicable and if the financial and material circumstances allow them to do that.

My Dear and Beloved: The description that we had about how to care for the underprivileged people, the orphans and the widows is meant to help us and to give us clear understanding of how to evangelize and disciple the people that God called us to look after and care. This is one of the way to expand our ministry and a method to show God's care and love to those whom God's love and is concerned with.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that open my mind clearly and make me understand your will and the way to serve you. Lord I commit myself to abide with this word of yours, helps me Lord to persevere in order to apply these principles in the life of the people whom you call me to care. Lord I pray for myself to be filled more with love toward those who are underprivileged and those who are in troubles, the sick, the widows and the orphans. Lord I am willing to serve you in this direction. Lord I pray for my brothers and my sisters that everyone of them will be at your expectation to go and care for those categories of people who need your love and your care. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will feel no pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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