

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Make a Difference for One

Definition: Caring for the needs of individual people was very important to Jesus. We see how He healed people, met with outcasts and showed love to children. Scripture clearly shows Jesus' compassion. It is important to see needs, look for opportunities and give your time. You too can be a loving friend that makes a difference to someone.

Audio Segment: *Showing Love to One Person*

Segment Questions:

- As shown in my personal example on the back, in what ways have you been impacted by others making a difference in you?
- What are the hurdles that we face in our daily lives that prevent us from constantly being proactive about helping others? How can we avoid or conquer these hurdles?
- Think of a time when you made a difference in someone else's life. Did you know at the time you were impacting them in a significant manner? What were the driving factors that led you to make the effort to help that person and did you feel led by Christ to make a difference?
- What examples in the Bible come to mind most frequently when discussing the help and difference a Biblical leader made in someone's life?

Action Questions:

- Using the five devotional titles on the back, create a statement about what you think is at the core of making a difference in someone's life.
- Do you have examples of someone in your life that is deliberate in helping others and working to make a difference in their lives for Christ? What steps can you take to be more intentional about making a positive difference in other people's lives?
- Who has Christ been bringing in your life or putting on your heart, for you to disciple to? What are your next steps in that relationship or process?

Personal Application: What can you do in the days to come to keep your radar on to make a difference in those around you? Do you know anyone that could use your attention and help?

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So often we hear about lending help to others, especially those in desperate need. We see example after example of Jesus lending help to the poor, giving sight to the blind, healing the sick, and so much more; however, despite all that we hear and all that we read, we are all too often quick to ignore, judge, or discriminate against those in need. Perhaps it's because of the perception of inconvenience, the assumption that money is the only solution, or that somebody else will come in and help. We, as Christians, must stop and be attentive to those around us and those specifically in need of help and love. The gift of time is the best resource at our disposal. It doesn't matter if you have a lot or a little, it is the heart that matters. Allow others to see the light of Christ through our actions.

The devotional titles for this lesson are:

- Opportunities to Make A Difference
- Opportunities Wherever You Are
- Giving Our Time
- Seeing the Unseen
- Showing Love to One Person

When I was preparing this lesson, I didn't have to look far back to see a recent example in my life where one person helped me out immensely during difficult times. So often we say to other's "we'll be praying for you", but as I am often guilty of, we forget to include that person in our prayers after leaving their presence. It's always a nice gesture and well-intentioned, but it's a completely different feeling to see someone live out those words and commitment to you. These past two weeks have been quite taxing on my mental and physical well-being as I have recently closed on a business and began the transition to new management and operations. During that time, I was caught up in being overwhelmed by the anxiety of the struggles and personality clashes between former ownership/management and new ownership/management. Upon telling my close friend and mentor about these struggles and doubts I was experiencing, he asked what he could do to help. I said prayers were most needed. He not only verbally committed during our conversation that he would be praying for the venture and my anxiousness, but he provided the following prayer via email shortly after:

"Heavenly Father, I am so confident because I know that the Bible says that you are concerned with what concerns us. And that you will perfect that which concerns us. Psalm 138:8. The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands. Please bless John with your favor and your peace. Give him joy in his heart. I pray you'll bless his business and give him confidence in your provision. Let his life and this business reflect your providence. I pray for John and his family for your blessing and provision. God bless John. Give him strength and confidence. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

This provided an amazing feeling of relief, calmness, and trust that God would guide my path. It also taught me the value of leading through Christ, as my mentor reflected through this experience.

Philippians 2:4

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Matthew 25:35-40

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was 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, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.