

- In **Luke 10:30-37**, we read the familiar story of the Good Samaritan. This story is in response to the question posed by a lawyer who was trying to justify himself before Jesus concerning his following of the law. The ultimate point of Jesus' story is to show love and compassion towards those who are around us when they are in the most desperate of need. Two people, who we would consider upstanding people, just walked by without offering any assistance. This is known as bystander apathy. A quick Google search will bring up some of the most well known cases of bystander apathy. One of those cases is that of Hugo Alfredo Tale-Yax. In 2010 in New York City, Yax came to the aid of a woman who was being attacked by a robber. Yax was stabbed in the process and laid on the sidewalk for nearly an hour before medical personnel came to his aid. Reports state that nearly 25 people walked by without doing any more than staring at Yax. One individual even took pictures of Yax as he lay dying. Sad that this type of thing happens.
- On the other side of the story, we see the one many in the story of Jesus who had love and compassion on the one who was in a dire situation. Notice that this Samaritan didn't do any crazy impossible things to help out, instead he did a few little things that made a huge difference. He did these easy things while others just walked by and did nothing. All the people had to do was put in a call to authorities for Mr. Yax and give assistance, but they couldn't do that one simple thing.
- We might ask ourselves what we would do in this type of a situation. Hopefully we will never find ourselves in a situation where someone is injured and need of help, but every day we are around people who are in desperate need of God's grace. What do we do to assist them? If we do nothing then we are in the same place as those who failed to render aid and assistance to those in need. We have things that we can do that are not that difficult. They're not extraordinary actions, but they are things that can lead to the saving of a soul. So let's look at 4 Simple Things You Can Do To Reach The Lost.

**I. SHINE: Our daily lives must reflect the better way that Jesus offers.****A. Jesus calls us to shine for him in our lives. (Matt. 5:13-16)**

1. Jesus teaches that citizens of His Kingdom must light up the dark world that is around them by acting like the One that has extended grace to them.
2. When we live like Jesus then we act differently than those who are around us. We react differently to problems. We have an optimistic outlook on life because we know that we are in the hand of God.
3. If we live like this then people will notice up like Jesus wants in this passage. People will see our conduct and they'll recognize that it is different. People will want to have the peace that we have and it can create opportunities to show them Jesus.

**B.** Does my life reflect Jesus? Do people see me as being different from others that are around us? Does my light shine brightly for Christ or have I let the world around me cover it up? I can only light up the way for those around me if I am letting Christ shine through me.

**C.** Simply lighting the way isn't the end of my responsibility though, we must also be willing to not just act for Jesus, but we must be willing to speak up for and like Jesus.

**II. SPEAK: Spiritual thing should naturally come out in our conversations with others.****A. Our conduct and speech must be seasoned with salt and influential. (Col 4:5,6)**

1. We make the most of our opportunities by doing our best to always say the right thing, and it is never the wrong thing to talk about God.
2. We find it very easy to spend minutes or even hours talking about things that are important to us like sports, our kids, or hobbies, but how easy do we find it to talk about God often?

**B.** We can easily speak about God in our daily lives, by just recognizing just how much He is a part of it.

1. We can share Scripture with those around us. If we are talking about something we have recently studied then we can interject that into the discussion.
2. We can give God glory for the great things we have in our lives. We can show appreciation for the good things he does.
3. We can express the fact that we are praying for those around us who are struggling with things in their lives.
4. We can point hurting and struggling people to God's Word for comfort.

5. We can speak positively about things that are happening here at our congregation, maybe a bible class that you are really enjoying.
  6. We can say simple things like, "Lord willing, I'll see you tomorrow." that show that we are committed to God and are constantly thinking about Him.
- C. It should be natural for us to speak about spiritual things because we should be spiritually minded. As we speak about the good spiritual things then that will open doors of opportunity for us.

### **III. INVITE: As we speak positively about spiritual things, invite others to come and see for themselves.**

- A. Phillip begins extending his invitation for his brother to come see Jesus by speaking positively about Jesus. **(John 1:45,46)**
1. As we speak positively about our church family, we should naturally proceed to extend invitations for our friends to come and see for themselves.
  2. If we think things are great then shouldn't we want others to experience a good thing? We do this for many other things. (movies, restaurants, music, etc.)
  3. Inviting them to our spiritual activities will open doors for them to hear the word of God spoken and taught.
- B. Here's some ways we can invite others:
1. Talk positively about the bible class you're in and a friend to come study with you.
  2. Maybe you really like the 2015 sermon series so you invite them to come on the first Sunday to listen to it.
  3. You might really enjoy the enthusiastic and heart felt worship service and you want your friend to experience that with you.
  4. You like the men's, women's, couple's or teen's study so you invite a friend to come and study with the group.
  5. Study says that 25% of people who don't attend church say they would if someone simply invited them.
- C. We make the special effort invite others to gospel meetings. I don't think there would be anything wrong with putting forth that type of effort all the time to invite others. Our invitation cards are very easy to use as a means of invitation and they help us do 2 out of these for simple things: speak and invite.

### **IV. WELCOME: We must make sure to warmly welcome those visiting our assemblies as honored guests.**

- A. James discusses how we should treat anyone who comes into our assembly. **(James 2:1-4)**
- B. We shouldn't show any sort of partiality but treat all visitors as honored and loved guests.
- C. How would you feel if a friend invited you to a meal. He wasn't even there when you got to the house so you had to let yourself in. You sit there for a while by yourself. Finally he get's home and tells you that you're sitting in his seat. His family ignores you during the meal. After you finish he leaves the table to go be with the kids. Eventually you go home without even a goodbye. How would you feel? I'm gonna assume that you'd be upset! I know I wouldn't feel cared for at all.
- D. We do our best to treat our guests to our homes as well as possible, and that exact same effort should be given we have guests come into our assemblies. By showing them attention and speaking with them, we show them that we care for them and appreciate them being with us.
- E. Let's treat our guests just like we would in our homes.
1. Let's introduce ourselves quickly once they enter the building and express how happy we are that they are here.
  2. Let's take a minute and see if there are any needs that we could assist them with.
  3. Let's help them find a seat and give them any materials that they might need for class or worship.
  4. Let's start observing the 10-minute rule and take the first 10 minutes after service to devote to guests and make sure that they have any questions answered and again express our extreme appreciation for the being with us and encouraging us.
- F. Greeting guests warming can be the first step in helping them decide to make a return trip to our assembly.

Going back to our opening about bystander apathy, I hope that I would be a person that would react to someone dire need, but honestly that's not the main issue, tonight. Our issue is whether we are willing help those around us who are lost and dying in this broken world. We don't have to do backflips or do something that is just unbelievable. We just need to put forth some effort to do these four simple things that can help a soul. May God help us to see the value of a soul and be willing to simply be disciples who have a love for Jesus and souls.