

GO DO THE SAME

THE GOOD SAMARITAN / LUKE 10:25-37

INTRODUCTION

'It shouldn't have to HAPPEN to you for it to MATTER to you' (Epictetus)

There's truth in this statement isn't there? – we're often more concerned with what's happened or happening to us. Look at the COVID-19 pandemic, it's been experienced worldwide and therefore has captured the world's attention; while the injustice of poverty remains, for most in the West anyway, something we read about or see on a screen, it's not something we experience, it's not something that has happened to us.

Is injustice such as poverty something that should matter to us? As followers of Jesus does injustice matter?

Injustice should matter to followers of Jesus because injustice matters to God. *Micah 6:8, Isaiah 1:17, Jeremiah 22:3, Proverbs 21:3, Amos 5:21-24.*

Another reason justice should matter to followers of Jesus; Jesus said, *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* (John 10:10) However, injustice, particularly the injustice of poverty, limits a person's experience to live life in its fullness. Poverty, for example, frustrates a person's ability to fulfil their God given call, to flourish as well as steward creation. It obscures a person's intrinsic worth and dignity that is theirs by virtue of being made in the image of God.

JESUS' ENCOUNTER WITH A LAWYER

1) Jesus makes clear the priority for His followers; they are to ***"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"*** (Luke 10:28)

2) Through the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37), Jesus gives further insight into why poverty should matter to us, as Jesus makes clear His followers need to SEE injustice, need to ACT in response to injustice, and need to TREAT ALL PEOPLE EQUALLY.

WE NEED TO SEE - We're told a man was travelling on his own, minding his own business, when he's attacked, stripped naked, and left to die. Clearly, this man was a victim of injustice in that his basic rights were violated, via the unprovoked violent attack by others. The attack was unfair and undeserved; through no fault of his own, he was beaten, naked, half dead; the man was disempowered, degraded, humiliated, pushed aside, left to die. Unable to help himself, the man became trapped within the circumstances into which he'd been pushed. **The man needed someone else to SEE the injustice and its impact on him.**

STORY (VIDEO): *Tell story of someone who needed the same, who were unable to help themselves, family, or community, and needed others to SEE the injustice they were experiencing and its impact.*

WE NEED TO ACT - The beaten-up man continued to experience injustice because two men - the priest and the Levite – both were top roles within Jewish culture/society – did nothing. They left the man lying there, watching the sandals of others walk by, UNSEEN, until out of

nowhere somebody stops, they SEE the injustice, they walk over into his life, and literally save it. A 'good Samaritan' intervened, he did something, he stopped, he ACTED, he gave the man a helping hand up and out of the unfair, undeserved circumstances.

As followers of Jesus, we need to be people willing to SEE injustice, as well as ACT, we need to do something about it. We need to be practical in our response, responding to the immediate needs of those needing help, as well as providing support which helps them move forward into the life Jesus planned, living life to the full. **We need to ACT. That is, we need to be people loving God AND loving our neighbour as ourselves!**

***STORY (VIDEO):** Reference previous story, highlighting how the person's life changed because a follower of Jesus was willing to SEE injustice and ACT, doing something about it.*

WE NEED TO TREAT ALL PEOPLE EQUALLY - Remember, Jesus told this story in answer to a man's question, **"Who is my neighbour?" [Luke 10:29]**. In the end Jesus' answer is simple – EVERYONE – everyone is your neighbour, there are no exceptions. By making the Samaritan the hero, Jesus makes the point we're to treat ALL people equally, there are no exceptions on who we're to ACT justly towards, to show mercy to, to love and give hope to, even our 'enemies' are included in the ALL.

Jesus makes clear we need to treat ALL people equally, there are no exceptions. 'Our neighbours' are not only the people we like, our family, our church community; they're not only the people living next door or up the street, living in our suburb or city or state or country. 'Our neighbour' includes people we like or don't like, who like us or don't like us; it includes people who are 'local' as well as people who are 'global'. We need to show love and give hope to people whom we probably will never meet.

***STORY:** Tell another story of a person or group who were experiencing injustice and needed a follower of Jesus to SEE, to ACT, to TREAT ALL PEOPLE EQUALLY.*

APPLICATION

Jesus ends the parable with the instruction to **"Go and do likewise."** (Luke 10:37b) We're left with the challenge to do just that, to SEE, to ACT, to TREAT ALL PEOPLE EQUALLY; to respond to injustice by making it possible for each person to live life in its fullness as God intended.

- Give examples how to put this into practice both locally and globally.
- Refer to 'Partnering with Baptist World Aid Australia'.

CONCLUSION

"Your 'Yes' to God requires your 'no' to all injustice, to all evil, to all lies, to all oppression and violation of the weak and poor..." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

BAPTIST WORLD AID AUSTRALIA STORIES-VIDEOS

KISMATI FROM NEPAL (Sponsor Child with Baptist World Aid Australia)

<https://vimeo.com/692044931>

Kismati's mother says: "If the youth club had not stopped it, I would have gotten both Kismati and her brother married at the same time." To think girls and boys are being married off when they're 10 or 11, it's a reality for too many children. Particularly for children whose family is living in poverty. Remember, Kismati's mother says: "We took that decision (to marry off their children) because of financial problems." Imagine, for a moment, living in poverty, experiencing extreme financial hardship, and the solution to somewhat alleviate the situation is marrying off your children, your 10 or 11-year-old children!

RUBEL FROM BANGLADESH (Sponsor Child with Baptist World Aid Australia)

<https://vimeo.com/581984612>

When Rubel was growing up in rural Bangladesh, he missed out on going to school. But as a teenager he joined Baptist World Aid's Child Sponsorship Program. Opportunities to become a Child Partner at the Child and Youth Club helped Rubel learn the importance of education. And with support and encouragement from a Child Sponsor in Australia he began to dream of a better world for himself, for his family and his village.

Now 25-years-old, Rubel is married to Anita. She's a Bible translator making God's word accessible for their local community. The COVID-19 Pandemic meant Rubel lost his job in Dhaka at a garment factory. Thankfully he could continue earning an income because he learnt chicken raising and savings skills at Child Club.

Rubel and Anita are continuing to pursue their dreams, both studying honours degrees at university. Like most parents, they have big dreams for their son too. 'We dream that we will bring up our son as a good person and that he gets education and that he may serve the community one day,' says Rubel. Their dreams are within reach because of Rubel's experience as a Child Partner.

JUDY: A MOTHER FROM KENYA Judy, a 34 year old mother of four children living in Kenya. Before she got involved with our local partner her plot of land was unable to provide enough food for more than 2 months; they were at the mercy of the changing climatic conditions and its negative impact on the rain. Before the support of BWA, Judy's 1.5-acre farm produced 180 kilograms of maize and 20 kilograms of mung beans. Her children were often missing school because of illness and malnutrition which impacted their education and costs were high due to the medication fees. Through our Christian partner, Judy received soil fertility management training and other agricultural support, as well as access to credit through the village savings

group to buy quality seeds. Now, after this support, Judy's 1.5-acre farm produced 720 kilograms of maize and 225 kilograms of mung beans. That's a 4 time increase for maize and 11 time increase for mung beans!! In addition to these incredible harvests, Judy also leased an extra 1-acre piece of land and diversified her income through chicken and goat farming. Her children are healthier and don't skip school PLUS the profits from the sale of her crops were able to purchase solar panel lighting which meant her children can now study at night.

MAO: A MOTHER FROM CAMBODIA

I'd like to tell you about another woman, Mao, a mother living in rural north Cambodia with her husband and her two sons. Before our local partner started work in their village, Mao and her husband had no stable income. They struggled to afford food and school costs for their children and had little access to clean water. Although they didn't want to leave their young children home alone, Mao and her husband would sometimes have no choice but to leave them and go into the forest to forage for wood to sell; now, this could be a dangerous, something Mao found out one day when she was bitten by a snake while foraging for wood. However, when our local partner, FH Cambodia, begun work in her village things started to change for their family. Mao and her husband learnt a variety of agricultural skills and received a loan from their local savings group allowing them to set up a small business and work from home. Working from home meant they no longer had to leave their sons home alone! Now, they grow vegetables and raise chickens and have enough food to eat as well as some extra left over to sell. They also invested the savings group loan into purchasing equipment to source fresh water and deliver it to families in their village. Now Mao and her husband have stable incomes and their sons no longer go hungry. Mao also stepped up to become the Village Health Volunteer and attended numerous training sessions on personal health and hygiene. She now shares these learnings with others in her community! For example, practising safe hand-washing can be a challenge if there are no taps or running water available. Through the training sessions, Mao learnt how to make tippy taps (a hand-made tap operated with a foot lever to reduce bacteria transmission). She now teaches others in her village how to make tippy taps, making hand-washing much more accessible. Being able to properly wash hands has been a key step for staying healthy, particularly during COVID-19.

PARTNERING WITH BAPTIST WORLD AID AUSTRALIA (BWAA)

Baptist World Aid Australia can partner with you and support you in showing compassion, in being the love that will help end poverty in our broken world, in giving those trapped in unjust circumstances freedom and hope.

You can partner with Baptist World Aid Australia in meaningful ways:

Child Sponsorship - <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/sponsorship/>

Better World Ambassador - <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/ambassadors/>

Disaster Action Fund - <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/disaster-action-fund/>

Ethical Fashion Guide - <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-fashion-guide/>

Gifts In Wills - <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/faith-in-action/gifts-in-wills/>