

I am my brother's keeper

Intro Belinda and Kristen Levitt

Review. We are the people of God sent on a mission to share the light and love of Jesus until the whole world knows

The ultimate tug of war is between living for self and living the life that is sent.

The tension between It is all about me and it is not about me.

Love Park

Why would we intervene? I am my brother's keeper.

Luke 10:25 the Good Samaritan

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher, " he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

He answered: "'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 neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 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. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 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. 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.'
"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell
into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one
who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."
-Luke 10:25-37 (NIV84)

Unwrapping the truth of scripture is like peeling an onion, there are
multiple layers.
The question was, who is my neighbor?

If you are going to be your brother's keeper you have to be
available.
The priest and Levite just passed on by

Too busy w the things of God to make time for people. Life is all
about relationships. It is easy to live our lives so full of heaven
we are no earthly good. If we are too busy to help someone in need we
are just too busy.

To be true to the point this story the primary point would be about
racism and prejudice. We will come back to that at the end of our
time today. Adventures in missing the point.

If we are our brother's keeper we look for Spontaneous and Spirit led
opportunities
You're the one if you are there, if you have expertise, if God
leads...Help

Beating in NY and over 30 people saw it and no one intervened. Why?
It's not my problem
Afraid
Everybody thought somebody would help and nobody did

Aren't you glad that God responds to us like the Good Samaritan,
never too busy, unconcerned or irrelevant

A seminary prof assigned pastoral students to prepare their final message on this text
Then set up a dummy situation w a fake accident and most of the students hurried by
Then they increased the challenge by forcing the students to be late
And almost all of the students did not practice what they were about to preach

Must build margin, have a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, be wise
If you are going to help you will have to go beyond your own hurts and hangups, fears

Must remember that whatever else it is that we do we are in the people business
Most adults turn to God in a crisis, tell the Gospel story.
Adults are situational learners

Second layer

The helper knew when to leave
He wasn't helping to look busy or to sooth his own conscious, he didn't need to be needed

Some people over function; they have a Messiah Complex. Anybody's prob is their prob
Can be convenient, stay so preoccupied w others you don't have to deal w your stuff.

There is a God and I am not Him.

Mikeal, food, tires, utilities bill,

I'm not going to work harder than you

It is possible to help in a way that creates dependency then you enable someone
There is a time when helping hurts, they want to shift the weight of responsibility to you.

There isn't abuse w out codependency--someone enables the sick cycle

I've been w him to see a social worker, have his case workers phone number.

Third layer

The helper built a relational network to do what he couldn't do

Extrapolate--You are your brother's keeper when you go back and address the systemic cycle that breeds this problem

Back to our story--robbers hung out there add lights, re-engineer the road, add civil servants. Help in such a way to break the cycle of poverty

Guy at the end of a river before the falls saving everyone he could. How about going up river and building a landing where canoes can get out of the water before it is too late.

Don't just do disconnected acts of charity that perpetuate the cycle of poverty. Give your energy to that which is wholistic, reproducible and sustainable. Do it within relationship.

Don't just give a man a fish teach him to fish. People don't want a hand out they want a hand up.

Indian Creek, party w a purpose. 50,000 meals, a week from now they will be hungry again. Caring must move beyond disconnected charity

that doesn't build a relational net and address the systemic problem.

The white church is guilty here of drive by acts of charity that don't develop relationship
Expose, engage and entangle. Sometimes it is racism and prejudice that holds us back.

If you aren't in it for the long haul then don't pretend to care. We don't have a resource prob we have a distribution prob

The Lord's prayer, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Heaven comes to earth and earth becomes more like heaven.

We say, it is not my prob. I've got my hands full at the church

I know because I've done it.
A quarter of our city is Hispanic, 30,000 greatly under resources
We have a Hispanic church that meets in our building
They are present but invisible, poverty is around us but we don't see and don't hear.

God--help them, I gave God the Heisman

Meet w the Mayor, take on an assignment, put together a Hispanic Coalition
I realized I was ignoring God, I'll find the leader, prioritize needs and identify assets
And turn over the execution to someone else
The city manager started attending our meetings

8 QOL Health care, education, housing, jobs, social serv, etc 6/8
How many? 5%

Filled the board w free or reduced care opportunities
How many know? 10%

Who do they trust? No one. They trust the church.

Where is the church? 10-12 Hispanic churches, under resources, don't work together

I can't just preach this. I have to live it. You do too. You don't get to pick what you will obey. Remember Cain yesterday? We want to treat God's will like an option.

Allow God to break your heart w the things that break the heart of God

Are you giving God the Heisman?

Lord, make me willing to be made willing, LeRoy Pitts

Ruin me in a glorious way