



THE OPPORTUNITY BEFORE US

ARE WE WILLING TO BE OBEDIENT?

Luke 10:25-37 KJV

[25] And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? [26] He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readeest thou? [27] And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. [28] And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. [29] But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

[30] And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. [31] And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. [32] And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

[33] But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, [34] And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. [35] And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. [36] Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? [37] And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

SOME PEOPLE REFUSE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN OPPORTUNITY

1. The response of the priest and Levite was to see the beaten man as an obstacle rather than opportunity. They were in a hurry, Hypocrites.
2. The good Samaritan observed the same scene but acted in a way that would demonstrate love to his fellow man.
3. If you really believe in the savior of Christ you follow his ways.

Jesus knew when the man asked "who is my neighbor?" That the Samaritans hated the Jews so Jesus gave an illustration involving the Samaritans so the man would realize his own hypocrisy.

ARE THE FOLLOWING THINGS TRUE IN MY LIFE?

1. **OPEN EYES** - am I sensitive to what's around me? Do I see need and yet ignore or absolve myself of responsibility to help?
2. **OPEN HEART** - do I have have compassion on someone who offers no benefit to me? Do I care for ones well being regardless of the cost to me? Am I genuine in my care and concern?
3. **OPEN HANDS** - am I willing to do something for another beyond symbolic gesture? Am I willing to take a loss personally to help a stranger in need?
4. **OPEN POSSESSIONS** - am I willing to share what I own, even my prized possessions, to aid someone? Do I record how much I spent or do I spend whatever is necessary to help without regard to cost?
5. **OPEN TIME** - am I willing to devote my time to a cause that offers no benefit to me? Am I selfish with my time? Do I judge first before deciding to volunteer my time?
6. **OPEN POCKET BOOK** - do I put my money where my mouth is or do I only do what the cheapest I can do. Do I volunteer quickest that which is cheapest and easiest when dealing with another's needs? Do I cap what I'll spend or do I have faith that God will provide me the all the resources to fulfill the need. Do I get angry at the cost not because of the expense but because it's my money?

Everyday is a new opportunity from God, are we ruled by fear or faith? Do we have faith that the opportunities God sends our way have a larger purpose, even extending out beyond our lifetime, or do we see only through our own perspective?

TURNING CRISIS INTO OPPORTUNITY

(GENESIS 37 - 50, THE STORY OF JOSEPH)

THE SEVENFOLD CRISIS OF JOSEPH:

1. Thrown in a pit to die.

Genesis 37:24 KJV

And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

2. Sold as a slave to captain of the guard.

Genesis 37:36 KJV

And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

3. Put in jail after being falsely accused.

Genesis 39:12-15 KJV

[12] And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. [13] And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, [14] That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: [15] And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.

4. Trust in the promise of God

Romans 8:28 KJV

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

5. Believe and accept the truth that God is in control of all things.

Psalms 119:103 KJV

How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

6. Refuse to make quick judgements in the midst of the crisis.

7. Focus on God instead of the crisis.

8. Avoid focusing on the pain.

9. Real past crisis and the opportunities that followed.



10. Deal with your anger immediately.
11. Submit yourself to the will of God in the situation.
12. Demonstrate a spirit of gratitude; thank Him for the crisis.
13. Determine to view the crisis as an opportunity.
14. Refuse to listen to unscriptural interpretations of your crisis by others.
15. Remain in constant prayer listening for God's instruction.
16. Refuse to give way to changing emotions during the crisis.
17. Obey God leaving all the circumstances to Him.

God wants to build our faith, is our faith dead?
Is the EKG of our spiritual life a flat line?