

Imperfect #5

When Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 10:25–37

Discussion Questions

1. Can you recall a time when someone went out of their way to help you when you were in desperate need of help? Share with the group.
2. Words and affirmation may be important to help others know Christ, but actions that reflect Christ speak a greater volume than our words ever could. Yet somehow, professed Christians' actions do not compel others to seek Christ. We may be doing something good, but more times than we care to admit, those good deeds are done out of convenience or obligation; and good deeds borne out of that attitude are not helpful to bring others to Christ. Read Luke 10:25-37. Describe what prompted Jesus to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan (v. 25-29). Is knowledge of the law enough to save a sinner? What does living it out mean?
3. The Jewish legal expert in the passage asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" but he was really asking who is he compelled to love. How did Jesus answer? Discuss how the priest and the Levite in the parable reacted when they saw the man who was robbed and beaten (v. 31-32). Why were their actions wrong? If you were in their shoes, would you help this person? Discuss why many Christians are like the priest and the Levite, whose jobs were to actually help others? What happens when you do not do anything? Why are many Christians, who are saved and have eternal security, immune to the plight of fellow men who are suffering?
4. The third traveler was a Samaritan. Jews despised Samaritans because they were not pure Jews. Unlike the priest and the Levite, the Samaritan's reaction to seeing the robbed and beaten man on the ground is a helpful kind of action that compels non-Christians to know Christ:
 - a. The MOTIVE of helpful action: COMPASSION (v.33). The Biblical standard of reaching out is compassion. What happens when there is lack of compassion in helping others? Is it possible to develop a compassionate heart or attitude? How?
 - b. The CONSEQUENCE of helpful action: SACRIFICE. Describe what the Samaritan did (v. 34). What did he sacrifice as a consequence of helping the injured man? Looking at your life, what sacrifice have you done to help someone else in great need?
 - c. The EXTENT of helpful action: GOING THE EXTRA MILE. Aside from cleaning the wounds of the man with oil and wine, what else did the Samaritan do to care for the man (v. 35)? Discuss why such action could stun the world and draw men to Christ?
5. In concluding the parable, what did Jesus help the legal expert realize about loving one's neighbor? (v.36-37)? What did Jesus charge him to do in response (v. 37)? As a Christian who should love God with all your being, how can you be more like the Samaritan?

Walk

Our Lord Jesus not only spoke of love, He also displayed it. He was compassionate and went the extra mile to manifest His love by sacrificially giving Himself for us. His sacrifice was not about what He did, but about how He helped us. In response, is your helpful action so compassionate, sacrificial and above and beyond the normal that it stuns the world (the lost) and compels them to ask you what caused you to do it? Can others say that our church is full of Samaritans? How can you be a Samaritan in your community?

Worship & Prayer

Father, forgive me for getting so comfortable and complacent in my salvation that I forget that others need Jesus to save them, too. I remember Your compassion and the extent of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, and I feel truly loved. Help me make known that kind of love to people who need it, especially those I interact with on a daily basis. In Jesus' name. Amen.