

Purposeful Giving



Thank you for continuing to read.

I lived in Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam before. As you walk from the Posta Area, City Centre to the Magogoni Area, where you find the ferry to cross to Kigamboni, you meet with a lot of disabled people begging. And even within the Ferry Station itself, you find a mother with 2 or 3 disabled children begging here, another man there and another on another corner. Walking inside that station, which was mostly crowded as people waited for the ferry or *Kivuko*, you had to watch out as they sat on that floor begging.

3 years later, they were still there, begging. And still with the same schedule. Fridays and Sundays were good days to beg and collect. These were the days when there were many people who gave. The Kigamboni area was usually crowded due to the beaches on weekends. Also, the Muslim population was high thus *zakat*. The beggars used this opportunity to collect as much as they could.

As one who believes in giving, it was a heartbreaking sight, seeing and knowing nothing had been done.



Reminder 1 in Purposeful Giving

Back to Ibrahim's story, I am reminded of the Good Neighbours Story in the Bible that Jesus told the expert of law who tried to justify himself. The story is in Luke 10:25-37. What I was reminded of was not the fact that it was about love, entering the kingdom of God, being a Levi or Jew or Samaritan. But what the Samaritan did to the man who fell into the hands of robbers, and he was left half dead.

From verses 33 to 35 is where the focus and a greater lesson is.

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, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii[e] 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.'

The Samaritan saw the wounded man. He felt pity and compassion for him. He then used what he had there and then to try to help the man and then got him to where more help can be found and given to him. And not only did he get him there, but he also took care of him. He didn't abandon him there.

It was on the next day that money was mentioned and that was to make sure he received the help he needed then and that it was to be treated. He gave the money to the innkeeper who could do that and asked him to do so and for any other expenses, he will refund him when he gets back.

Up to that moment, the Samaritan did what was ought for him to do, help someone in need when he met them.

There are many things we learn from this Samaritan. But being in the present, helping in the present do what you presently can is important. As much as we want to give out money and alms to people in need, money, though very useful, is not the first solution.

Show that you care, show them that they matter and are worthy of the support and help offered. Showing them that whatever they go through can be solved and they are not a lost cause or without a chance to live again. Listen. Hear them. See them. Assure them. Help them believe.



Reminder II in Purposeful Giving

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

What does it all mean?

This says it all. Money and alms are the best way to help those in need. But as believers, let us always find a reason to go the extra mile for people to know, learn and understand that we all are God’s vessels and God can use us to change, touch, heal and be a miracle to anyone who believes and expects one.

From many miracles and good acts and mercies of God, this is something I want to remember always. As much as you can go around giving money to all beggars in town, a better and more

meaningful way to give is becoming a miracle for someone God shows.

Understand that you do not have to pour your life out, breaking your back. Help as you can. Call for help to help others. Believe that when God calls you to do something, ALL heaven and its store is for you. The right people will love and find peace sharing your blessing and together, become a miracle to someone.

Remember, instead of money, choose to learn and know what the issue, concern or problem is. If you help someone, a single person stands in a year, do that. It is not about the amount or number reached, it is how godly, and spirit led the mission to be accomplished.

Giving with Purpose is for Everyone

Everyone lives to be a miracle to someone. One miracle can touch a million people. If you can help someone become a million little miracles do that. We always begin with one. We always pray and look to touch a person's life.

Even the Angel of God in the book of Genesis, sent to the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah was asked by Abraham. From 50 to 10, God said he wouldn't destroy the city of Sodom. Abraham didn't go on asking if the city would be saved if it was for the sake of one. So, the promise was kept. When the angels got in Sodom, they witnessed otherwise thus saving Lot and Family, 4 people and the city was burnt down.

Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens. Thus, he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land.

Live a life. Live at present. For yourself and for the person who is next to you. The person you meet in the streets presently. See them. You don't have to know them. In this life, this age, we all are walking around with burdens and hurt. May we seek the Spirit's wisdom to know how to speak to strangers, friends and foes alike. That we may know how we can help them as God's own ready vessels.

One question to think about:

What if the Samaritan saw the man who was wounded and still left him half dead? What if he felt pity or compassion for him and took out a pouch, a wallet or an envelope full of cash and left with the wounded man?

Yours,

Karah ^ ^