

## **Crisis in the Crowd**

### **Luke 10:25-37**

If you witnessed an emergency happening right before your eyes, you would certainly take some sort of action to help the person in trouble, right?

While we might all like to believe that this is true, psychologists suggest that whether or not you intervene might depend upon the number of other witnesses present.

### **This is known as the Bystander Effect <sup>1</sup>**

The term bystander effect refers to the phenomenon in which the greater the number of people present, the less likely people are to help a person in distress.

When an emergency situation occurs, observers are more likely to take action if there are few or no other witnesses. Being part of a large crowd makes it so no single person has to take responsibility for an action (or inaction).

### **3 Areas Most Churches are lacking in**

- 1. ALTAR WORKERS**
- 2. FOLLOW-UP**
- 3. DISCIPLESHIP**

My purpose in this article is to STIR UP THE GIFT within us and CHALLENGE everyone of us with the following acronym, **ETERNITY**

Educate  
Train  
Emergency  
Respond  
Necessity  
Invest  
Time  
Yield

#### **In our text:**

Very unfortunate incident of a traveling man on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho who gets robbed, beaten, and left for dead.

Understand this road is a well traveled road. The main road to Jericho is 16 miles.  
THERE COULD HAVE BEEN MANY WHO PASSED BY THIS WOUNDED MAN

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.verywellmind.com/the-bystander-effect-2795899>

**BUT Jesus only identified 3 specific men** who came upon this victim

1. Priest
2. Levi
3. Samaritan

So out of all that CROWD that passed by, only 1 man responded.  
Do you see that BYSTANDER EFFECT in action?

### **E – educate**

2Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Understand... not only important to educate long time church members, but also new converts... BECAUSE ZEAL WITHOUT WISDOM CAN BE DETRIMENTAL

### **T – Train** – “on the job training” hands on

TRAIN – how to witness

How to be an effective ALTAR WORKER

How to PRAY someone through

Train our children too!!!! Train them in ALL ASPECTS OF MINISTRY

### **E – Emergency**

RECOGNIZE an emergency when you see one. SAMARITAN recognized an emergency

ALSO – recognize PRE-emergency conditions. IF we can recognize PRE-emergency conditions, we might can prevent an actual emergency!

### **R – Respond**

Don't just be a BYSTANDER.. do something. The Samaritan responded. ALL of us must respond.

### **N – Necessity**

These are LIFE AND DEATH situations. Someone's soul is at stake – heaven or hell  
Samaritan knew this man could have died

### **I – Invest**

Going to cost!

Samaritan used his own supplies, his own transportation, his own money

### **T – Time**

This wounded man didn't get better immediately. Just because he had his wounds wrapped didn't mean he was healed. Be patient... LET THE BABY GROW!!!

### **Y – Yield**

One day, it'll pay off. Psalms 126:6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

**The Final Exam** <sup>2</sup>

Students at a religious institute, who enrolled in a class on the life of Jesus arrived at their classroom to take the final exam only to find a notice informing them that the test will be given in another building on the other side of the campus. As the students rushed across campus to the new room, each was accosted by a forlorn beggar who entreats their help. None of the students stopped for him, however — they all rushed by, anxious to arrive on time for the exam.

The instructor was waiting for the students when they finally reached the classroom. He explained to them that the beggar was an actor, planted by him to test their reactions. Because the students did not demonstrate that they had acquired any compassion while studying the life of Jesus, they all failed the exam.

**I don't want to fail the final exam, do you?**

I want to hear HIM say, Well done, though good and faithful servant, enter thou in the joys of the Lord.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/compassion-play/>