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5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Showing Love to Strangers

Today after church, my wife and I visited a local steakhouse that we had never visited before. I had a box of my homemade angels with me and after we had ordered lunch, I placed them on the table. There were many bright colors and assortments. I make a wide assortment of angels in a variety of colors. I make them all different because each individual you speak to has a favorite color and a favorite kind of angel wing (whether trimmed in silver or gold). Each angel is as unique as each individual. Our waitress was greatly touched and I told her to send all of the waitresses and waiters to our table who would like a free angel. As I was walking through the restaurant, I saw an older couple with an elderly woman that was seated at a table near my wife and I. I took my box and put it down in front of them and said, "Would you like a free angel that I made just for you?" They were stunned and shocked to say the least! The older lady was so touched by this act of kindness, that she stood up from her table, embraced me warmly and then kissed my neck! This is the second time in the last couple of weeks that this has happened to me. Usually a person will say something like, "This is sweet," "This is so kind," "Can I have a hug?" or "Are you an angel?" But in the last couple of weeks people have hugged me and kissed me without even asking me. I told a lady at Walmart, "'Love is kind.' (1 Corinthians 13:4 NIV), love is giving (John 3:16), and when you show these kind of gestures to people they sense God's love, but they can't put their finger on it. They have never had someone express God's unconditional love before."

After leaving the restaurant, my wife and I went to Walmart. While she was shopping on one side of the store, I was on the other side of the store. I saw this young woman, she was probably no more than 24, coming to the aisle I was standing in. I noticed she had some artificial flowers in her basket of all various colors. I looked at her and said, "Those flowers are beautiful and you don't even have to water them." She smiled at me and then carried on with her shopping. Later as my wife was in the self checkout, this same young woman was also checking out. While I was waiting for my wife to get through checking out, I walked over to the young woman with the flowers. I said, "I want to give you an angel to go with your flowers." She was shocked! Then she broke out in tears and said, "My husband just died and I was getting these flowers to put on his grave." I said, "Not only can you have an angel, but you can get an angel for your husband." Still in tears she said, "My husband's favorite color was purple." I said, "Well get him a purple angel." She pulled one from the box. It was a beautiful purple angel. I said, "When you put your flowers out, you have a purple angel that is given on his behalf." I can't tell you how much this touched her. As we departed she was still in tears.

On the way out of the Walmart store, I spoke to a young man and a young woman whom I had previously met, who were raising funds for drug rehabilitation. She told me how much it touched her to have the angel that I gave her the week before. The last thing this young woman said to me was, "God is not through with you yet!" And I said, "When people are shown kindness and when people are shown love with no strings attached, when you refuse to take money or anything from them, they don't know how to handle it." They've just experienced a form of God's love in the form of kindness and giving which is very unusual to the normal population. When you refuse to accept money or anything in return for the gift you have given them, they know they've experienced something, but they don't know how to handle it. I am reminded of what the Lord said to Moses when he asked Moses, "What is that in your hand?" Moses said, "It's a rod." God then told Moses to take his rod and "Cast it on the ground..." (Exodus 4:2-3).

What has God placed in your hand? It may be different than what I have described, but He has placed something in your hand to give to others. When you give freely and from the heart, with the intention of the Father in heaven being glorified, you will see miracles breaking out in various forms. What has God placed in your hands? Use it for His glory today and be a blessing to others.

I was at Joann's craft store a week or so ago. I gave two angels to a young lady. She was so stunned that she asked me this question that I had never been asked. "Why are you doing this?" I didn't know how to respond, but I said this out of my heart, "I just want to see people blessed without anything in return." She was shocked by that statement and said, "Okay."

Use what you have in your hand with the intention of it glorifying the Father and not yourself and it will be amazing what God will do.

For a related video on "compassion" see [Michael Jr's message](#) on YouTube.

Questions

- 1 What kind act could you do for others?

2 Think, meditate and discuss the following scriptures:

1 John 4:7

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.” - 1 John 4:7

1 John 4:8

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” - 1 John 4:8

1 John 4:16

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” - 1 John 4:16

3 Do you have to say the word “Jesus”, to do a deed in His Name?

4 Read Matthew 21:28-31 (NIV).

28“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

29“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

30“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

31“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”... - Matthew 21:28-31 (NIV)

Which of the two sons did the will of their Father?

5 Read Hebrews 10:24 (NLT).

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.” - Hebrews 10:24 (NLT)

What does this verse mean to you?

Answer Key

1 What kind act could you do for others?

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31 NIV)

2 Think, meditate and discuss the following scriptures:

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3 Do you have to say the word “Jesus”, to do a deed in His Name?

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” (Colossians 3:17)

“³³But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

³⁴And 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.” (Luke 10:33-34)

4 Read Matthew 21:28-31 (NIV).

Which of the two sons did the will of their Father?

The one who DID the will of the Father.

5 Read Hebrews 10:24 (NLT).

What does this verse mean to you?

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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