

It's Time to Care For Each Other

Jesus had some very powerful things to say about the homeless and those living in situations of need.

Jesus' concern and love for the homeless, and for anyone in need, was best retold in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:24-37). In this story, Jesus shares the story of a man who was robbed, beaten, and left by the side of the road. Two people ignore the man—they step around and pass him by—before one man, known as the Good Samaritan, stops to help him. There are many lessons for us in this parable, especially given the challenges we face here in Toronto.

The parable is a reminder for us to mirror the qualities and character of the Good Samaritan. Just as this kind man reached out to help a stranger and stand up for the injustice that he witnessed, so we have an opportunity do the same.

Who are we as a city? Who are we as citizens and neighbours? Many of our homeless and helpless neighbours are much like the man in the parable of the Good Samaritan. They are alone, frightened, and are reaching out their hands for help.

When was the last time you went out of your way to help someone—the last time you crossed the street and stepped *toward* a neighbour in need? Imagine the impact across our city if we all committed to doing so together; each going out of our way with a gift to help a neighbour in need right here in Toronto.

Each night in our city, there are thousands of people sleeping outside. They have no home. No food. No hope. Toronto is overflowing with people in need. But equally, we are also overwhelmed with opportunities to practice the kindness that Jesus so perfectly illustrates in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Would you take a step out of your way, off the curb on your side of the street, into compassion?

It's time to take care of one another. It's time to stand up for injustice in our neighbourhoods, break the barriers of society, and let our hearts break for people in distress.

Will you be a Good Samaritan?

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