

WARM UP

1. If you won \$10 million, what are the top 5 things you will do with that money? (list in order of importance)
2. What do you love to do on your spare time?

WORD

KEY SCRIPTURE: LUKE 10: 30-32 (NKJV)

³⁰ Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side."

Current Situation: We live in a country that is blessed to be pretty much free of COVID-19. If we take a minute to count our blessings, we will realise that we are very comfortable in life.

However, our comfortable and blessed lifestyle can cause us to be apathetic to the needs of others around us. Much like the priest and Levite in our Luke passage.

In this Sunday Plus, we will discuss the dangers of apathy, what can cause us to be apathetic and how we can combat apathy.

1.) APATHY SHRINKS OUR CARE

LUKE 10: 30-32 (NKJV) (same as above)

God has called Christians to actively love and care for those in need around them. Unfortunately, we have the human tendency to be more concerned with our own comfort in life and how we can be more comfortable. In other words, humans have a great capacity for selfishness.

As a result, we become unconcerned about (or even ignore) the suffering and needs of others. Our lives can easily revolve around receiving blessings instead of being a blessing to meet someone's need. With our instant generation, comfort and ease can become our motivation and desire, influencing most of our decisions. This can be described as an idol, and it can prevent us from showing the love of Jesus to others, since we are too absorbed with what we want, our comfort, or our family's comfort.

When we discover we've made an idol out of comforts and blessings, God call us to:

2.) RETURN TO OUR FIRST LOVE

REVELATION 2: 4-5 (NKJV)

⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

For Christians to love others just like Jesus loved others, they must come back to their first love, which is Jesus. For non-Christians to overcome selfishness, God also calls them to decide whether to follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

We, as humans, cannot love others like Jesus does if God is not our first love. Life's blessings and comforts can replace God as the first love in our lives. The passage from Revelation informs us that we need to repent (turn away from self-love, and turn towards God's Love). We can ask God daily to help us live with His love active in our lives to show His love to others in need around us.

Our weapon against apathy is our full acknowledgement of His love for all of us and our love for Him.

Remember: We love others because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

3.) COMBATING APATHY

EPHESIANS 5: 15-18 (NKJV)

¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit...

For Christians to overcome apathy, we must be active and involved in serving God and others. The perfect place to do so is becoming involved in church ministries outside the walls of the church as well as inside the wall. The goal of church activities outside is to share God's love to those who don't know God and to those in need. By being involved, we have the opportunity to be a blessing to someone.

We cannot show and share God's love to those around us if we are not around people, because we are too comfortable to be bothered with getting involved. Could it be God wants us to be stirred with a righteous discomfort to become closer to his heart and what he values?

When we allow God's love to live in and move through us, we can live the lives that God has called us to: to care and love others as Jesus did with His love, truth and grace. We combat apathy, when we choose forego comforts and love God and love others (the greatest and second greatest commands from Jesus).

APPLICATION

1. Why is it easy for us to be apathetic to the needs of others?
2. How can you combat apathy this week?
3. What are practical steps you can take this week to care and love others just as how Jesus did?
4. If you are a member of ENAC and not serving in a Sunday Morning and/or Outreach ministry, what can you do to become involved in serving God and others?

PRAYER

1. Ask God for forgiveness for being apathetic. Ask for help to live life loving and serving God and others.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit's infilling and empowerment to show and share His love with others in need around you.
3. Ask God to show you how you can be more involved in serving Him and others.