

DOES ANYONE CARE???

TEXT:

Psalm 142:1-2, 4:

1 I cried unto the LORD with my voice; with my voice unto the LORD did I make my supplication.

2 I poured out my complaint before Him; I shewed before Him my trouble.

4 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

INTRODUCTION: Do you have a caring heart? A caring heart is a sharing heart.

I was suddenly made aware of this text while we were visiting the homes of a number of our Bible class members. Some even made it hard for us to leave, urging us to stay on. Some said: *"You are the very first ministers to come to our home since we have been attending the church."* Several said: *"I thought no one cared about us."*

We noticed that it is the people who are very lonely, and their loneliness caused them to reach out to us. I remember one couple in particular that even rejoiced over our visit, and thanked us over and over again.

It is **loneliness** that often tempts people to feel that nobody cares.

It is loneliness that often tempts people to feel that nobody cares.

It is also in the time of **trouble** when we are nearly driven to despair that we need some genuine, caring friends. It was in a time of severe troubles that caused the psalmist David to say: *"No man careth for my soul."* His son Absalom had gotten the big head, and instigated a coup-d'etat. David fled the palace. Listen to what the dear, caring people said and did for him:

2 Samuel 18:2-5:

2 And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of

Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also.

3 But the people answered, Thou shalt not go forth: for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us: but now thou art worth ten thousand of us: therefore now it is better that thou succour us out of the city.

4 And the king said unto them, What seemeth you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.

5 And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

2 Samuel 23:15-17:

15 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!

16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.

17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.

STARTLING FACT

After World War II, it was discovered that millions of Jews had been burned in the



gas ovens, killed in gas chambers, and buried in mass graves. 11,000 Polish prisoners had been shot and put in collective graves. The Russians pointed the accusing finger at the Germans, and said they did that; while, on the other hand, the Germans pointed the accusing finger at the Russians, saying they did it. Life seemed disgustingly cheap to those who perpetrated such

horrible crimes against precious people.

Today, many people feel: *“Nobody cares about me. I feel like a tiny, insignificant spec trapped in the turbulence of humanity, tossed back-and-forth by forces beyond my control.”*

Who is interested in the eternal welfare of precious souls in this community? What value have we placed on the worth of a soul? The soul’s worth is so enormous that Jesus said:

The soul’s worth is so enormous.

Mark 8:36-37:

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Psalm 49:6-8:

6 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;

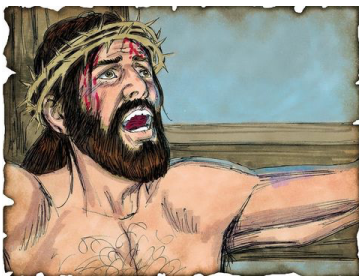
7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

8 (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)

We can't even begin to realize how great the value of one soul is!! With all the wealth that is in the world, you could not purchase one soul’s salvation. Not one! That’s how valuable our soul is to God.

THIS IS HOW MUCH GOD PLACES THE VALUE ON YOUR SOUL:

1 Peter 1:18-20:



18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious Blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in

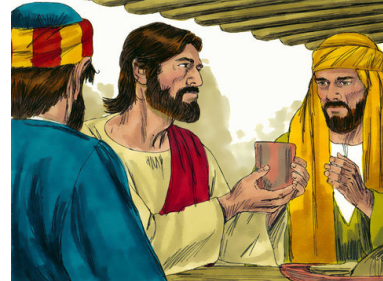
these last times for you,

Romans 8:32: He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Luke 22:19-20:

19 And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My Body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.

20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in My Blood, which is shed for you.



Titus 2:14: Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Hebrews 9:12: Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own Blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

1 Peter 2:24: Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed.

1 John 3:16: Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

THE LORD JESUS WANTS US TO BE WITH HIM FOREVER

John 14:2-3:

2 In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

1 Peter 1:3-4:

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which

*according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

Matthew 25:34: Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

THE LORD JESUS WANTS US TO HAVE THE HOLY GHOST, ANOTHER MOST PRICELESS GIFT.

John 16:7: Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.



John 14:15-17:

15 If ye love Me, keep My commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Luke 24:49: And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

THE LORD JESUS CARES FOR YOU.

1 Peter 5:7: Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.

Recall the verse in our opening text: **“No “man” careth for my soul.”** The psalmist does not question God’s caring for us, but it is our fellow man to whom he is addressing this complaint.

Paul faced the same problem concerning the congregation at Philippi.

Philippians 2:19-21:

19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

2 Corinthians 12:15: And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

2 Corinthians 10:2: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

Galatians 4:16: Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Paul was a good example of caring:

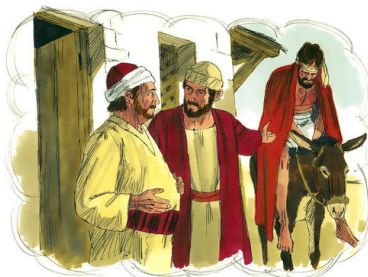
2 Corinthians 7:12: Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.

WE ARE TO BE A CARING PEOPLE.

1 Corinthians 12:25: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

Luke 10:34-35:

34 And 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.



35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

Lord Jesus is here showing us the value of every precious soul. Even though they are battered, beaten, bloody, and half dead, they are still worth saving.

1 Corinthians 6:20: For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Acts 20:28: Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own Blood.

Romans 8:16-17:

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:29: For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2 Peter 1:4: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

NOTE: When I behold your faces, I am looking at part of the family of God, joint heirs with Christ. You are a child of the king!!!! That is, to everyone who is:

***born again,
washed by the Blood of Jesus, and
cleansed from all your sins.***

You who are not saved or washed white by the Blood of Jesus, but have tried to fix up your own life, reform it, and turn over a new leaf, are only *white washed*, and not ***washed white***.

WHAT DO WE DO TO CARE FOR THE SOULS OF OTHERS?

1. It's involves, first, a deep sense of the worth of each person.
2. An awareness of the dangers to which each soul is exposed.
3. A concerned heart exerting every effort to win them to Jesus.
4. Upon whom is this responsibility to care placed? Upon every Christian.
5. We need to care for Christians, as well as for the lost souls who are without hope.

1 Samuel 12:23: Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

1 Timothy 2:1: I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

Hebrews 3:13: But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Acts 1:8: But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

An Example of Caring People:

Dear Man of God:

We have a very respectful request for prayer, and we know God answers prayers.

We have a three-year-old granddaughter that is very precious to us. We have taken care of her most of her life, and a few months ago a judge placed her in our home. On November 24 of this year (1976) her mother came by to ask if we would let her take her to see her other grandmother. The mother said she had to work the next day, so we let her take her for a visit to the other grandmother's house. She said "We'll see you in a few minutes", but she never returned with our little granddaughter.

We can't find any trace of her or the baby since. Please pray a special prayer

that God will send our precious little angel back to us soon. The judge has ordered her to be returned to us, but we can't find her to return her to our home. We have faith that God will help us find her soon. Thank you for your prayers. May God bless you. Praise His holy Name.

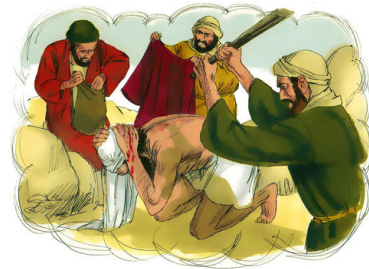
Mr. & Mrs. C. H.

This is an example of grandparents who have been caring for their little granddaughter, the mother of whom is not fit to care for this precious child.

BIBLE ILLUSTRATION AND EXAMPLE OF THOSE CARING, AND THOSE NOT CONCERNED.

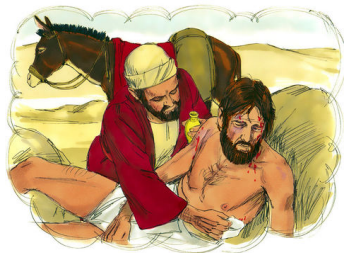
Luke 10:30-37:

30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.



31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at



the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

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

34 And 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.

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on



him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

This same message is for us today: *“Go and do thou likewise.”*

Akron Shalom Bible Learning Center

www.AkronShalomMinistries.org