

Not My Responsibility

A man driving down a curvy and hilly road in Taney County, MO came over a rise and then to a screeching halt. The bridge in front of him had been washed out in a torrential flood. He had known that many cars were behind him, but rather than get out to warn them, he immediately got on his cell phone to call the Department of Transportation. Within a few hours the DOT had sent some men to the scene to put up professional signs warning drivers that there was imminent danger ahead and that they should turn back.

Prior to the arrival of the DOT, many vehicles were unable to stop in time and they perished. They received no warning. When the professional signs were posted, others were spared an untimely death.

The initial driver, Bart Strothmann, was grateful that he was spared and felt good that he called the professionals who set up signs to alert others of the danger. He didn't want to be viewed as strange if he were to stand in the road waving his arms to warn the others of their sure death if they were to drive into the river.

When the news team arrived on the scene, Bart Strothmann, was interviewed:

“Bart, that was quite an experience. I'm sure you are glad to be safe and out of danger.”

“Yes, that was close, but it's over now. At least I'm safe.”

“You didn't warn others. Do you feel bad that some perished in the flood? You might have helped them if you would have waved at them to stop and turn back.”

“No, I don't feel bad. Some jobs are better left to the professionals. When the DOT got here, the problem was taken care of. In a sense it bothered me to watch people drive into the river and perish, but they weren't my responsibility, I didn't even know them. They should have had sense to stop.”

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What's your response to Bart's comments? If you are like many, you would be angry that any human could have such little concern for the well-being of others.

Sadly, this is a picture of 98% of American churchgoers who believe that they have no responsibility to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with non-Christians. (Dr. Bill Bright, "The Coming Revival" 1995, pg. 65)

The danger for the non-Christian is far more serious. While death is awful, an eternity in hell is beyond imagination. Apart from a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, a person will live a life of sin, one day die and stand before God for judgment, be found guilty of their sins before God and cast into hell for all eternity.

Does that concern you? If you say, "Yes, but I'm not going to do anything about it", you are worse than Bart. You do nothing to warn those who are on the road to perishing in their sins. You let the pastor or "professional" do the job of reaching the lost.

Charles Spurgeon said, "Have you no desire for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself, be sure of that." In other words, if you have no concern for others to come to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, then you must not be saved yourself.

Professing Christian, if you are truly saved, you received mercy and grace that led you to repent and put your trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. God forgave all of your sins, gave you eternal life, placed the righteousness of Jesus Christ to your account and will bring you home to heaven. You should be filled with such gratitude to seek God and ask Him to give you the love, compassion, courage and words to go to your lost family, friends, neighbors and strangers with the good news of Jesus Christ. If you ask God, He will give you the ability and power. (I Peter 2:8,9; Matthew 4:19; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16; 9:1-3; 10:1; II Timothy 1:8,9; 4:17; II Corinthians 5:10,11; Isaiah 41:10; Jude 22,23; I Corinthians 2:1-5; Ephesians 3:20,21; John 14:12,13)

If you need help getting equipped for this glorious task, contact us. It would be an honor to help you to be prepared to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others. Don't leave it to the professionals.

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