

“MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH YOUR LIFE”

Luke 5:17-26

God is in the life-changing business! He transforms lives by the power of Jesus Christ. Once we have experienced His transforming power, He invites us to share what we have with others. Today, we unlock seven principles that will help each of us make a difference with our lives.

Principle #1 - Compassion Is Involved

“If ... (I) have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.”

1 Corinthians 13:1

“Don’t be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.”

1 Corinthians 10:24, NLT

- When you really care, it always leads to prayer!

How?

- For an opportunity
- For an open heart

Action Point: Make a prayer list

Principle #2 – Concern Is Involved

“When Jesus saw their faith...” Luke 5:20a

- What paralyzes people today?
- God can use my faith to help others find Him!

“He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him.”

Hebrews 7:25a

Action Point: Agree to pray with someone else

Principle #3 – Consideration Is Involved

“Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.” Luke 5:18

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.” Colossians 4:5

Action Point: Invite someone to a special event or service

Principle #4 – Consistency Is Involved

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

“God is patient, because He wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost.” 2 Peter 3:9b, CEV

Action Point: Stay with it!

Principle #5 – Creativity Is Involved

“When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof...” Luke 5:19a

“Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out...” Hebrews 10:24, Msg.

Action Point: Plan an innovative way to reach out to my friends.

Principle #6 – Cooperation Is Involved

“They... lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.” Luke 5:19b

Action Point: Invite a friend into my group.

Principle #7 – Commitment Is Involved

- There's always a cost

“...We put up with everything ourselves so that we will not keep anyone from believing the Good News of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 9:12b, NCV

Action Point: Choose to be inconvenienced

CONCLUSION

- Am I willing for God to use my life?

PRIMARY RESOURCES USED FOR THIS SERMON INCLUDE:

“How to Be Used by God” by Rick Warren

“Stretcher Carriers and Sermon Critics” by Bob Deffinbaugh

“Who is this Man?” by Ray Pritchard