

“Caring for the Sick”  
John 5:1-15

For over two thousand years, the Church has been following a Messiah who made no secret of the fact that He deeply cared for the hurting and dying. Yet after all these years, many in the Church still question whether caring for the “*least of these*” is part of our mission or not. Today, we go back to school, so to speak, and learn from the Master Himself the why’s and how’s of caring for the sick.

1. Criticizing Like Some Do: Answering The Naysayers

A. First Objection: “It’s not part of the Church’s mission”

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor”* (Luke 4:18-19).

*“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost”* (Luke 19:10).

B. Second Objection: “We should only help our own.”

*“Wherever Jesus went, He healed people of every sort of disease and illness.”*  
(Matthew 9:35 NLT).

*“A vast crowd brought Him the lame, the blind, the crippled, mute, and many others with physical difficulties, and they laid them before Jesus and He healed them all”*  
(Matthew 15:30 NLT).

Bottom line: *Jesus **cared** and so should we!*

2. Caring Like Jesus Did: Learning From The Master

A. Jesus traveled to be with the sick

*“Now, there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool which is called Bethesda... Here a great number of disabled people used to lie – the blind, the lame, the paralyzed”* (John 5:2-3).

B. Jesus took the time to learn about their condition

*“One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, He asked him, ‘Do you want to get well?’” (John 5:5-6).*

C. Jesus touched them with His miraculous power

*“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.’ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked” (John 5:8-9).*

**You can touch someone as well:**

1. A-dvocate on behalf of the sick

*“He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; He will crush the oppressor” (Psalm 72:4).*

*“Speak up for the people who have no voice, for the rights of all the down-and-outers. Speak out for justice! Stand up for the poor and destitute!” (Proverbs 31:8-9, The Message).*

2. C-ontribute to bring them hope

*“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8).*

3. T-eam up with others to help

*“When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus” (Luke 5:19).*

**Conclusion**

What will you do?

Other online resources:

- www.icdinternational.org (for information about well drilling and caring for orphans)
- www.onedayswages.org (to donate 0.4% of your salary to a worthy cause)
- www.worldvision.org (for catalog of “gifts that make a difference”)
- www.gbim.org (to give toward the Philippine Typhoon relief fund)