

Living Beyond Myself, pt.4, 8.20.06

## The Power of Doing Good

**Introduction:** This is from the IMB June 2002 issue of the Commission magazine (p22). The whole issue's focus was on China and this was in an article called "China Stories" of short clips "extraordinary stories come from extraordinary living"

"Washing feet

Sixteen Chinese Christians went into one rural area to start churches, but saw no response. They had little money to support themselves, so they lived in a forest and gathered what food they could find. Soon they faced starvation.

They decided to fast for a week and ask God if they should return home or stay to evangelize. On the last day all 16 received word from the Lord that they should "wash their feet."

The evangelists found buckets and positioned themselves along a road where 1,500 farmers passed to and from their fields each day. As they passed, the evangelists offered to wash the farmers feet. Twice a day the farmers responded by beating the men and dumping the buckets of water on them.

Convinced their instructions were of God, for three years the evangelists were beaten and shoved aside.

Finally, a farmer let one of the evangelists wash his dirty, mud-crusting feet. Soon they were washing the feet of all 1,500 farmers-twice every day. This pattern went on for months as the evangelists struggled to support themselves.

Then one day a farmer asked why the men were washing feet. The evangelists answered by sharing their faith and the farmer became a believer in Christ.

Within weeks, all 1,500 farmers became Christians. And within two years, there were 50,000 Christians in that county."

2 Review: Willow Creek Community Church developed this series; Jesus defined greatness as service to others; all called to serve God f/t; equipped us with spiritual gifts to serve others with supernatural power

### A. We are commanded to do good

1. **Matt.5.16** In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your **good** deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
2. **Matt.12.35** The **good** man brings **good** things out of the **good** stored up in him
3. **Lk.6.27**"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do **good** to those who hate you
4. **Acts 9:36**In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha who was always **doing good** and helping the poor.

5. **Acts 10:38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around **doing good** and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.
6. **Romans 2:6f.** God "will give to each person according to what he has done."<sup>L</sup>To those who by persistence in **doing good** seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.
7. **1 Cor.10.24** Nobody should seek his own **good**, but the **good** of others.
8. **Galatians 6:9f.**  
Let us not become weary in **doing good**, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do **good** to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
9. **1 Tim.6. 18** Command them to do **good**, to be rich in **good** deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.
10. **Titus 3.1:** 1Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is **good**,
11. **Titus 3.8** And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is **good**.
12. **Titus 3 14** Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is **good**
13. **Hebrews 13. 16** And do not forget to do **good** and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
14. **1 Peter 2. 12** Live such **good** lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your **good** deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.
15. **1 Peter 2:15**  
For it is God's will that by **doing good** you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.
16. **1 Peter 2:20**  
But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for **doing good** and you endure it, this is commendable before
17. **1 Peter 4.19** So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do **good**.

B. God has been good to us, therefore we are to be good to each other

a. Our model is Jesus. He went around doing good & provided the ultimate service to mankind through his death.

b. The existence of evil doesn't nullify his goodness. He took care of our greatest needs: forgiveness, relationship with the Father (Eph.3.12 in NLT: B/c of Christ & our faith in him, we can now come fearlessly enter into God's presence, assured of his glad welcome), and purpose in life (next point).

c. Since he's been patient, kind, good, forgiving, & merciful to me...served my greatest needs I will therefore serve others.

d. Doing good isn't equal to staying off evil either (Example: Not telling a person off, when I could, thinking, "I did good, by not losing my cool".) I did right, but I didn't

do good. The goal is to be full of kindness & goodness, not simply withholding harshness.

C. The reason you are still alive is to fulfill the good works God has for us.

Eph.2.10: For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago (predestined us to do)."

a. Near death experiences – "God has a special purpose for me. I'm living each day differently." It's true for us all.

b. God has a purpose for every moment of your life. You aren't on your own trying to navigate through life like a rudderless, motorless boat in treacherous waters. God has you alive today, b/c he needs you in his service.

c. We are the hands, feet, & heart of Jesus expressing his love to others by doing good. When we do good, people see, feel & experience the kindness & goodness of Jesus.

Illustration: Julianna delivering papers to people's houses...they were touched so deeply. The thumbprint of Jesus was on it.

d. You never drift into towel bearing...serving others...you always move away from it into selfishness or self absorption or preoccupation...the reason why some of your spiritual thermometers are in the 40's & 50 degree range is b/c you are doing your own thing. Your spiritual vitality is directly related to you fulfilling the works that God's created you to do. Disenchantment with God & the things of God often has to do with sin, broken relationship with God or others and not fulfilling the works God has for you to do. Therefore, one of the things to do to regain spiritual fervor is intentionally engage at some level of doing good

e. there is a reward at the end!!!

D. Do good works everywhere. Acts 10.38

a. Illustrate with map of US

b. Illustrate with map of TX

c. Illustrate with map of Brazoria

d. Illustrate with name of city, address of church,

e. Illustrate with address of home.

f. Some of us believe that in certain places it's incumbent upon us to be at our best behavior, whereas in other places all the claims of Christ are off. Stories of pastors who were great with his people, but a terror at home.

g. Repeat, "Jesus went around doing good & I'll go around doing good."

E. Do good works as the Lord directs.

a. There is both the general and specific things God wants us to do.

b. Listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The great thing about Christianity is that it isn't a dead religion, but a living relationship with a loving God who still speaks.

c. Illustration: Walking by a car when leaving the hospital and sensing the promptings of the Lord to wait a little. Lady asked me to help her. I went inside and called maintenance. The lady was in her 80's & person she was taking home was probably in her 80's- 90's.

d. Think about it. There are wars, famines, tragedies, over 6 billion people. and the God of the universe was concerned enough about these two women that he had me stop to be his hands for these ladies. What an incredibly good God, that he would redirect one of his sons to help two ladies in need.

e. You do good wherever the Spirit prompts you.

Take out The First Serve & Critical Needs Card

One of the places we are to do good is in church. Listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit...your involvement in the ministry may not be a huge life changing experience but it can be for those you minister to.