A WORD WITH YOU - By Ron Hutchcraft

10388 – "The Tragedy of Doing Nothing"

Luke 10:30-34

November 4, 2026

We love it when we hear those stories in the news about ordinary people who come upon someone in danger and they risk their own lives to save them. And then there's the kind of story that came from Mount Everest some years ago. A British mountaineer became desperate for oxygen on his descent from that mountain. And you know, it is a legendary mountain. Ultimately, he collapsed along a well-traveled route to the summit. He was dying. And more than forty climbers are thought to have seen him as he lay dying, and they passed him by. He died because of oxygen deficiency. But you know what? He sure didn't have to die.

I'm Ron Hutchcraft and I want to have **A WORD WITH YOU** today about **"The Tragedy of Doing Nothing."**

The official cause of death was probably something like "oxygen deficiency." But apparently there was another cause of that climber's death—human indifference; people too busy climbing their mountain to stop and help someone who was dying.

Sadly, that happens more than we know. And the ones who are dying may be people we see everyday. Without the Bible, we'd never know the real spiritual condition of the folks that we know who don't belong to Jesus. But we have the Bible, and it describes every person without Christ in words like these: and I'll just quote from the Bible, they are "lost," they are "without hope and without God in this world", Ephesians 2:12. Some folks you see often, are in God's words, "condemned", according to John 3:18. Or, they're called in Proverbs 24, "those who are being led away to death".

My Bible tells me that neighbors and friends of mine who don't know Christ will be "shut out from the presence of the Lord" (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). There's no way anyone can get into heaven with their sin unforgiven. And the only One who can forgive their sin is the One who died for those sins. So we have dying people all around us. People whose eternal destination may hinge on whether or not we stop for them to tell them what Jesus did for them on the cross. Look you could live a good life in front of them for fifty years and they're not going to guess Jesus died for them. You have to tell them that.

Where are we in this disturbing story Jesus told in Luke 10:30-34, our word for today from the Word of God? "A man…fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him…beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side." And then another religious leader came along and it says he "passed by on the other side." Then it says, "But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took

pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds…he took him to an inn and took care of him." What troubles me is that it's the really religious folks who just keep walking by this man who needed them—people like me, and maybe like you.

So many times I've met people who have come to Christ late in life, and they just regret so much that they did not know Him sooner. And I've heard so many say something like, "I was 52 years old…I was 45 years old before I ever heard what Jesus did for me." And it turns out, in retrospect, that they had known several folks along the way who were believers and who never told them about their Jesus.

Look around your personal world: those coworkers, the family members, your fellow students, your teammates, your fellow club members, how bout your friends, your neighbors. If you'll let Jesus show you what He sees, you're going to see people who are slowly dying spiritually; who are headed for an unthinkable eternity without Christ while you're enjoying the glories of heaven. Silence is unacceptable. Silence is wrong.

Don't talk to them about religion. Or your church. Or their lifestyle. Tell them about the Man who loved them enough to die in their place. God put you in their life to be their chance at Jesus. Don't keep walking by their need. You know Jesus. They need your Jesus. Don't let them down. Don't let Him down.

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