



- 1. classic <u>irritation</u>... "Have to beg to get help!"
- 2. classic <u>explanation</u>... too much time, work, danger, expense, etc.
- 3. classic <u>illustration</u>... "tightwad" Israelites, vs. "good" Samaritan

In times of crisis or urgency, we respond to life by **choice**.

- a) small portion of choice = circumstance (emotion, emergency)
- b) great portion of choice = made <u>deliberately</u> and <u>previously</u>

*choice = less about what we will DO (in a certain circumstance)

= more about what kind of person we will BE

It is the choice of **CHARACTER**

CHARACTER ISSUES WHICH WE CHOOSE

- 1. Integrity vs. Irresponsibility
- 2. Action vs. Immobility
- 3. Others vs. Self

compassionate or indifferent

generous with time for others <u>or</u> time spent mostly on self

paying attention or have to be asked

interested in other people or self absorbed

taker or giver

I showed you that we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

(Acts 20:35)

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. With the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

(Luke 6:38)

We prepare for emergencies by learning skills.

We should <u>also</u> prepare for emergencies by developing character traits that add <u>virtue</u> to our <u>faith</u>.

(1 Peter 1:5-10)

Faith + Goodness

Goodness + Knowledge

Godliness + Kindness

etc.

Enables my knowledge of Christ to become **effective** and **productive** (8)

Keeps me from sinking into self absorbed **blindness** and **apathy**. (9)

Assures me that God's transforming and saving power is actually at **work** in **me**. (10)

Generates <u>eternal treasures</u> available to me after my death. (11)

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... (Mt. 6:19-21).

HOW DO I ACCOMPLISH THIS?

Getting involved... acting responsibly... doing something voluntarily... making a difference... stepping up in time of crisis or need... RAHAB

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what SHE DID when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

(James 2:25)

Sticky situation... involvement/help... declared "righteous"

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

(Hebrews 11:31)

Prior decision... faith/welcomed

Rahab did not know how or when the confrontation with the Israelites would occur. But she made a decision to bless and help them. She was on their side. This decision was made prior to their invasion. Therefore, when it happened, her actual involvement was helpful. This was no an emotional decision born in chaos. It was born of her choice, her character.

