

## SICK OF EVIL • Week 3: What Are You Going to Do About It?

### Daily Briefing • Day 5 of 5 • Nobody Does That

#### WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

**Matthew 28:19-20a**

Sunday named four ways the message actually gets out. One of them was service that opens doors to Gospel conversations. Today we look at why serving somebody who cannot pay you back gets noticed, and what people do with it when they notice. You can watch or listen to the sermon at [1mso.church](http://1mso.church) or on the One Missoula app.

#### OPENING PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, I pray that You would help me to see the needs around me as a chance to practically and tangibly love my neighbors. You don't frame love primarily as a feeling, but rather as an action, and so I pray that You would help me to love others and serve others as You have loved me and served me. God, I pray that this would lead to life-changing, eternity-shaping conversations that lead to changed hearts that change hearts. I pray these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

#### TODAY'S TEACHING

Notice what happens to prices when people are desperate. Tow truck at two in the morning in a snowstorm costs more than the same tow on a Tuesday afternoon. Rideshare surges when everyone needs a ride at once. Plumber rates go up when your basement is already flooding. That is not a scandal, it is just how supply and demand affects the world. Need creates leverage, and leverage sets the price.

Which is exactly why it stands out when somebody does the opposite. When a person uses their time, their skill, their money, or their tools to help someone who is in no position to pay them back, it cuts against the whole operating system. People notice because they cannot help it.

Jesus said that noticing is the entire point. *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16). Watch where the credit lands. Not on you. The good work raises a question, and the answer to that question is supposed to be God.

So when somebody asks why you spent your Saturday on their problem for free, you have an actual answer, and it is not that you are a nice person. It is that God did this for you first. He helped you when you could do nothing for Him in return, when you were not even on His side. You are passing on something you received.

That is also what separates this from every political or religious movement that tries to guilt people into treating others better. Guilt gets temporary compliance but then people quit. Scripture names a different motivator altogether. *"We love because he first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). God serves first, changes what you actually are, and the serving comes out of a new nature rather than out of pressure.

Jesus told a story about exactly this. A religious expert asked Him what the second greatest commandment, loving your neighbor as yourself, actually required, and then tried to narrow the application by asking who counted as a neighbor. Jesus answered with a story about a man beaten and left half dead in a ditch. Two religious professionals saw him and crossed to the other side of the road. Then along came a Samaritan (a man from a group Jesus' listeners despised), and he stopped. He used his own resources on the wounds, transported the man on his own animal, paid for a room out of his own pocket, and told the innkeeper to bill him for anything else. The man in the ditch could do absolutely nothing for him in return. Jesus ended by asking if the religious professionals or the dreaded enemy had actually been a neighbor, and then told His questioner to go do the same thing (Luke 10:25-37).

Now think about that at scale. This whole series has traced how evil spreads through a society one person at a time, one tolerated thing at a time, until a whole culture calls it normal. Good works spread the exact same way, just in reverse. Imagine a city where people actually paid attention to who around them was struggling and quietly did something about it, not because a law required it or a movement shamed them into it, but because that is what happened to them first. That is not a nicer version of survival of the fittest. It is a completely different design, and it belongs to a completely different Designer.

## READ & MEDITATE

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### **Matthew 5:14-16**

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

### **1 Peter 2:12**

*Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

### **Luke 10:36-37**

*"Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" <sup>37</sup>He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."*

Read Matthew 5:14-16 and notice Jesus assumes the good works get seen. Then read 1 Peter 2:12 and notice the good deeds are aimed at people who currently think poorly of you. Then read Luke 10:36-37 and notice Jesus laid out this whole parable to define "love" as action rather than a feeling.

## REFLECT

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Reminder: honest introspection and Scripture-informed self-assessment is far more beneficial than self-delusion and wishful thinking.

The world prices help according to how badly somebody needs it. Serving inverts that completely.

Who do you know right now with a real need you could meet, someone who is in no position to return the favor? Name them and the problem you could solve here.

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Jesus assumes people will see it. The question is what they conclude when they do.

*Has anyone ever asked you why you did something kind, generous, sacrificial, or selfless for them? What did you say?*

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If someone asked you that this week, would you be ready to point them to God, or would you deflect with something like "it was no big deal"?

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Fill in the blank from 1 John 4:19:

We love because he \_\_\_\_\_ loved us. (1 John 4:19)

*\*These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.*

What changes about serving when it starts as a response to love instead of an obligation from guilt?

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Guilt produces compliance that runs out. A changed nature produces something that keeps going.

Be honest about what is actually driving you when you help someone: obligation, wanting to be seen a certain way, or genuine response to what God has done for you paired with the desire for a little bit of His kingdom to come to a little bit of earth (Matthew 6:10)?

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This series has traced how evil spreads through a whole society one person at a time. Good works spread the same way.

*Dream and imagine for a minute here. What would Missoula actually look like if a few hundred people started quietly loving their neighbors through tangible acts of love-motivated service?*

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What is one need in front of you this week that you could meet without being asked and without keeping score? You named a person and a problem in the first reflection question. What if you took some time now to lay out a solution and identify the first step you could take?

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#### MY "I WILL" STATEMENT

**Sample:** *This week I will find one person who cannot do anything for me in return, meet a specific need they have without being asked, and if they ask me why, I will tell them the truth about what God has done for me.*

This week, because of what God has shown me in His Word, I will:

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#### PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. As we've read, God's ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

#### MEMORY VERSE

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Write or recite Matthew 28:19-20a from memory:

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#### A NOTE ON WHAT COMES NEXT

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Next week we ask a question a lot of Christians avoid. If God forgives, does it actually matter that much if I keep sinning? We will look at what Scripture says about people who claim His name while making peace with the very thing that is destroying them and everyone around them. Join us Sunday and bring a friend.