

Message 04

by George Verwer

The sermon calls Christians to actively care for the physical and spiritual needs of others, emphasizing compassion and outreach to diverse communities.

Duration: 1:02:58

Scripture: Matthew 5:16, Matthew 22:37-39, Luke 10:25, Luke 10:30-37, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:8-9, James 2:14-17

Topics: "Evangelism", "Compassionate Ministry"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of sharing the word of God and meeting the physical needs of others. They encourage the audience to embrace a vision of spreading the gospel through various means, such as sending sermon transcripts to people's homes. The speaker also highlights the need to care for those with HIV and AIDS, urging the audience to read a book on the global AIDS crisis. They draw inspiration from the story of the Good Samaritan, emphasizing the willingness to pay the cost of helping others. Additionally, the speaker reflects on their organization's past focus on church planting and discipleship, acknowledging the need to also address the physical needs of those in distress.

Transcript

I get some interesting things on the emails at times. This one caught my attention. A woman called the local hospital.

Hello, could you connect me to the person who gives information about patients? I'd like to find out if the patient is getting better, doing as expected, or getting worse. The voice on the other end said, what is the patient's name and room number? Sarah Finkel, room 302. I'll connect you with the nursing station.

Third floor nursing station. How can I help you? I'd like to know the condition of Sarah Finkel in room 302. Just a moment.

Let me look at her records. Ah, yes, Mrs. Finkel is doing very well. She had two full meals.

Her blood pressure is fine. She'll be taken off her heart monitor in a couple of hours if she continues this improvement. Dr. Cohen is going to send her home on Tuesday at noon.

The woman said, what a relief. Oh, that's fantastic. That's wonderful news.

The nurse said, from your enthusiasm, I take it you are a close family member or a very close friend. Neither. I'm Sarah Finkel in room 302.

Nobody here tells me anything. Anyway, I hope you don't end up in that situation, but you might keep that in mind. Each time together, we mentioned a couple of books.

We always have new ones. I wonder if you've ever met anyone being drawn into the whole New Age movement, quite popular in New England. Very much tied in with Hinduism.

The percentage of Americans that now believe in reincarnation is quite staggering. That's also tied in with Hinduism. And we have a book on our book table that's just available, like most of the books, for any donation.

This man, Michael Graham, I think he's an Australian, spent 28 years of disciplined practice with India's most respected gurus. Leads to a surprising conclusion. I don't think it's wrong to tell you he found Jesus and was powerfully, wonderfully saved.

And the insights into Hinduism and the New Age in this amazing book, which you've probably never seen before. He lives in California now. I've met him.

It's quite staggering. So that's one of the books for tonight. Many of you have been wise enough to pick up Calvary Road.

And this is the follow-up book. Calvary Road was so powerful, some people started to go extreme and got their eyes on sin and repentance and revival. And so Roy wrote a second book.

Make sure in the midst of it you put your eyes on Jesus. So We Would See Jesus is all about Jesus. And I recommend it as a great follow-up book.

There's also an important book about Muslims. The Muslim population in the United States is growing by the hundreds of thousands. We need to understand these people.

Most of them are embarrassed by militant Islam. Some of them probably are militant. But whatever the case, we need to understand these people.

Here is a book. God may have brought you here tonight to know about this book. Glad News! God Loves You, My Muslim Friend.

Pick it up. It'll be a blessing to you. And then my friend Bill Perkins, a pastor from Oregon.

And he wrote this book, When Good Men Are Tempted. And it started a men's movement, helping a lot of men in the challenge concerning sexuality and lust. The chapter, Breaking the Addictive Cycle.

Discover the New You. Very biblical book. Outstanding book.

I recommend it. And I know God is using that book in a powerful way. Now, I met two new people tonight.

They're just here tonight. They just joined Operation Mobilization a few weeks ago. And I love these two folks, or just one of you.

I want you to come. Forgive me for not memorizing your name in our instant little meeting. They just came back from Moldova.

And I thought, let them come. And let me ask them a few questions. Please come.

You can use this mic. And I'll use my mobile mic. First of all, remind me of your name again.

Dave Cassidy. Oh, yeah. Dave Cassidy.

And my wife Karine. Your wife Karine. And what country did you talk in here? What country did you just come from? We just came from Moldova.

How many of you, be honest, you know where Moldova is? Okay, not too many. Let's get the globe. This is your chance.

Show them where it is. Europe. I know it's not easy to find.

Over there by Romania. You got it? Hello. Yeah.

Oh, yeah. Okay. Sorry.

There it is. Right over there. Yeah.

Right near Romania and Hungary. What were you doing there? How did you, you know, how did this happen? Well, we became involved with an organization called Finishers. How many have heard of that? Okay.

Finishers is a connecting organization. They will, for you filling out a few simple questions and sending them a little bit of a resume, will match you through a computer with up to 90 different missionary organizations including OM. And so we did that, and we heard from OM, but we went further than that.

We went to a conference. They hold conferences every four or five months around the country, and when we were at the conference, we met the wife of the president of OM USA, Kathy Hicks, and she talked to us about short-term missionaries, mission opportunities. She took our information back and sent it around the world, really, and we heard from Bosnia, and we heard from Yemen, we heard from Chile, we heard from the Czech Republic, and we heard from Moldova, and Moldova seemed to be the best fit for us.

So tell us about Moldova. Is it a small country? Everybody's wealthy? Yeah. Driving Mercedes-Benz down the road? Tell us about Moldova.

Well, there are a few Mercedes-Benz there, but very, very few. Moldova is the poorest country in Europe. It's formerly part of the Soviet Union.

The annual, average annual income there is \$600 a year. They have almost no industry. Their only industry is agriculture.

Their only export is wine, and that isn't too terribly popular, particularly among the evangelicals there. But it's filled with warm and wonderful people who have an open heart. And Franklin Graham was just there.

There was a crusade there on the 7th and 8th of July. Praise God. Praise God.

And over 12,000 Moldovans came to Christ as a part of that crusade. Hallelujah. Amen.

As you look back at that time, do you feel it was worthwhile? How do you feel you and your wife benefited from such a short time? Well, let me tell you first that my wife, Karina, who was known over there as Mother Karina, was teaching English as a second language, and I was helping with relief and development, trying to apply some skills that I had learned in business to creating some jobs over there and helping in some poverty-stricken areas. And we really, really felt, if I could borrow from the name of a popular book, that we were living a purpose-driven life there in Moldova. We felt welcomed.

We felt as though we were making an impact there. And it's really changed our lives. We've been back only five weeks, and we've already put our house on the market.

We're in our 70s. We've put our house on the market. We've purchased a condominium so that we will be free to do whatever the Lord wills.

And this has been a very life-changing experience for us. And where are you from? We're from Hanover, New Hampshire. New Hampshire people, they're on the move! Good, thank you very much.

Take five or ten free books. Oh, man. I've never met them before.

Wonderful. And a number of other people have been coming and sharing. Let's just pray.

Let's pray for Moldova. It is marked on this map, a little hard to find, but it's written there, Moldova, right? It's actually right here is the Black Sea, and there's Romania, and there's Ukraine. So it's stuck between Ukraine, I should have known that, and Romania.

I want to pray tonight for some of the runner-up countries to my top ten. Just some of the other ten, or maybe more than ten, nations that are in a desperate state. And they're not in that top ten, but they're very close.

Would you pray with me for those countries right now? Let's pray. Lord, I pray right now for Morocco. There are a few more believers there.

Then Libya, and we thank you for that. There are more workers, a little more freedom, especially as many of them slip over into southern Spain. You often get a Jesus film.

On the way back, we pray for Morocco, those who are there, the tensions, and we just cry out to you for workers for Morocco. And then we would pray for Mauritania, which has a very small witness, mainly Islamic. We just cry out to you that there may be more workers in Mauritania.

And also for Mali, another country where the church at least exists, and yet where the majority are Muslim, hardly any, only a small number of Christian workers there. And Lord, they would then reach over and pray for Somalia. The suffering level has been so great, a very confusing, semi-anarchist country, no really proper functioning government.

Lord, we remember when we lost some of our own soldiers there years ago when they tried to bring peace. We pray for Somalia, this poor, tiny, tiny number of believers, and ask that that situation would change. And then, Lord, we reach out across the Indian Ocean, we pray for the Maldives, where there is no existing church, almost no workers.

We thank you for some Sri Lankans who are living there, trying to share their faith, and we pray for breakthroughs in the Maldives. And then we would pray for the small country of Bhutan, where, again, the church is almost non-existent. We cry out to you, Lord, that somehow more Indian missionaries could get into Bhutan.

Some are there. There seem to be some few believers now in that country. So we pray for Bhutan.

And then, Lord Jesus, we reach over to Laos, a really forgotten country, a country especially where some tribal groups have suffered because they stood with the United States in the Vietnam War and have been slaughtered and persecuted ever since. Many of them now live here in America. But we pray for Laos with only a tiny witness, and we pray for breakthroughs in that situation.

And then we would pray to the south, to Kampuchea, to Cambodia. Remember the killing fields, the hundreds of thousands that were slaughtered by Pol Pot. We pray, Lord, as there are now workers there, a number of agencies, people are coming to you with a high level of suffering, very small churches.

We reach out and we touch the land of Cambodia. And then, Lord Jesus, we would come back into the Gulf and pray for Oman and Dubai and Kuwait and Bahrain and Qatar, these Gulf states, where there are many believers working as expatriates, but almost no native believers in those Arab states. We thank you for new freedom, a lot of literature going out, much more freedom than Saudi Arabia, and we're crying to you for breakthroughs in those countries.

And then, Lord, we would pray for Syria, a desperate situation, a tiny number of evangelicals, limited freedom. We pray, Lord, for the land of Syria. We thank you for some workers who are there, tentmaker missionaries and some Arab nationals.

We believe in some ways it's a new day for Syria. And so we reach in to that country and pray for breakthroughs. And then, Lord, we would reach over to Tajikistan.

We thank you, Lord, that in Tajikistan there is some freedom and Christian agencies like our own registered with the government. But, Lord, the church is so tiny, and these are days of complexity and struggle. And so we reach in to Tajikistan and ask for greater breakthroughs in that nation.

And then, Lord, we would reach again back across the Mediterranean to Tunisia. We hear now there may be up to 200 believers in the nation, which seems incredibly small. But we pray for breakthroughs in Tunisia.

We pray for workers. We thank you for some literature ministry. We thank you for Arab world ministry and frontiers and OM and other groups that are now laboring there.

And we're believing you for breakthroughs in Tunisia. Lord, these are some of the other countries that are on our hearts tonight. And we pray for them in Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen. In my surveys in various churches, I found out that some people never have prayed ever before for some of these countries.

When we think of God's word to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every person, we think of the emphasis on nations. I think we should get involved in praying for the nations of the world. And I'm hoping every one of you who are doing that will do it more.

I urge you, and if you don't have the money to buy it, somehow we'll loan it to you or give it to you free, but I urge you to get this book, Operation World. You can have it at half price, any donation. It's a \$20 book.

But it has prayer information on every nation in the world. It really is a phenomenal book. At least take a look at it.

Maybe make use of it during this vacation. I want you to turn with me to Psalm 67. This is not the passage of the night.

This is just in preparation for the passage of the night. Because Psalm 67 is one of my favorite psalms. I try to read the psalms every day.

And it's one of those psalms that emphasizes the nations of the world. Psalm 67. May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us.

That your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. May the peoples praise you, O God. May all the peoples praise you.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy. For you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. May the people praise you, O God.

May all the peoples praise you. That the land will yield its harvest and God, our God, will bless us. God will bless us.

And all the ends of the earth will fear Him. May God add reality and obedience to the reading of His word. Now turn with me to Luke chapter 10.

In recent years, Luke chapter 10. The story of the Good Samaritan. Starting, I always like to pick it up a little bit early.

So I'd like to pick it up in verse 25. Luke chapter 10, verse 25. On one occasion, an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.

Teacher, he asked, what must I do to inherit eternal life? What is written in the law, he replied. How do we read it? He answered, love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. I've always felt they are the most powerful, almost the most powerful words in the whole of scripture.

I never ceased to be challenged by those first two commandments. Verse 25. You have answered correctly, Jesus replied.

Do this and you will live. But he wanted to justify himself. And so he asked Jesus, and who is my neighbor? In reply, Jesus said, a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell into the hands of robbers.

They stripped him of his clothes. They beat him and they went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road.

When he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too a Levite. When he came to the place and saw him, he passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan, a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was. When he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.

Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins. That was a lot of money.

Two silver coins and gave it to the innkeeper. Look after him, he said. When I return, I will reimburse you for an extra expense, any extra expense that you may have.

Which of these three do you think was the neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers? The expert of the law replied, the one who had mercy on him. Jesus told him, go and do likewise. If only that last sentence, if only that last sentence wasn't there.

Go ye and do likewise. Can this refer to us? If we look at a lot of other scriptures, we have to acknowledge, yes. We are called, all of us as God's people, are called to good works.

It's so strong in the Bible, the message is so strong in the Bible that people without the sermon have thought you get to heaven by good works. But we know, as we understand the gospel revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, that we go to heaven because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross. But if we experience that new birth in Christ, and I shared how that happened in my life last night, and I think that's available on tape, and we'd love you to spread that word around of what God did that night in Madison Square Garden, New York, 50 years ago.

But we know if we really are saved, we really know Jesus, we will be experiencing transformation. The Word of God says, if any man be in Christ, he or she is a new, you know that verse, a new creation. So here we are reading this passage.

Now this is a small picture, right? Last night I gave you a small picture. One person, me, Billy Graham, a praying woman, salvation came to my life. Jesus Christ truly is the ultimate good Samaritan, saving us, guiding us, healing us, paying the bills, so to speak.

Now here we have another picture, a man beaten, laying by the side of the road. A well-known religious man comes along, and I guess this is one of the reasons this passage is so radical, because it has the courage to expose religiosity without reality, religiosity without reality. And so this leader walks by and leaves the man lying there by the side of the road.

And then his assistant, the temple assistant comes along, and he also passes by on the other side of the road. Surely this is clear. We say in England where I live, as clear as a pike's staff, that as God's people, we have to respond to the physical needs of those around us.

We cannot turn away from the physical needs of God's people. And praise be to God. Though many churches, even whole denominations, did not see this for a while, many churches have seen this.

The Salvation Army under General William Booth, one of the greatest spiritual tornadoes that ever tore across planet Earth, reached out to the physical needs in an incredible way. I don't know what the Salvation Army is like in New England, but I can tell you in many parts of the world the Salvation Army are committed, soul-winning, biblical evangelicals. I've known the generals.

Paul Rader, the former general of the whole thing, is now the president of Asbury College. I was there ministering at Asbury with him about a year or two ago. Many great mission agencies, SIM, AIM, China Inland Mission, older agencies, newer agencies, World Vision, World Relief, they have emphasized, they've emphasized the spiritual and the physical needs.

In my own life, I was so consumed with wanting to win men to Christ, reach the masses, which is a huge task, an expensive task, as we were attempting to publish and print and purchase millions and millions and millions of Bibles and pieces of literature. We soon had a fleet of hundreds of vehicles guzzling gasoline all over the world, traveling from London to India. We soon had a thousand people living, many of them on the barest essentials, never knowing someday what money they would have for the next day, walking by faith in the battle.

We were just so overwhelmed with church planting, discipleship training, leadership training, literature publishing, then we got into video that we turned away, in a sense, from the people laying by the side of the road. I personally turned away and said, someone else can do that. I had some concern.

In fact, visiting the garbage dump when I first went to Mexico in the summer of 1957, next year we're going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of that. When I first went to Mexico, I went out into a garbage dump where children were eating garbage soup, flies were covering their bodies. I was deeply moved.

I recommitted my life to the poor. But I felt that our work must be the spiritual side, literature, evangelism, church planting. In a sense, as I look back, I don't know how I made that mistake.

It's in the mercy of God. I think life is a pilgrimage. I think mission societies, mission fellowships like OM, we make mistakes, just like human beings make mistakes.

Perhaps God knew we weren't ready. We weren't ready financially, emotionally, to take on the whole challenge that I'm trying to share with you this evening. God has changed our movement in the past 10 years.

We were slow. I did not lead this change. Some of the long-termers did not expect George Floyd to change.

When they hear messages like the message I'm about to share or I'm in the process of sharing, they can't believe it. But it's out on DVD, it's out on cassette, it's out on CD, it's gone out on television, it's gone out on the radio, it's gone out on Moody. I speak on Moody stations often.

There's no turning back for me. I see. I see tonight as I look at this passage, I see that I, our organization, four and a half thousand of us in 110 countries, we have to have, in a sense, the Word of God and Christian books in one hand, and we have to have food and medical supplies or whatever it takes in the other hand to meet those physical needs.

It's led me to a new understanding of the story of the Good Samaritan. It led me to this message which I'm attempting in much vulnerability and weakness to share with you. And as I see the Good Samaritan and I see his taking care of this wounded man, I see him willing to pay the bill there in the inn.

I'm so challenged. And when it says, go ye and do likewise, I say, Lord, here am I. Send me. We're gonna look at that passage as well probably tomorrow, Isaiah chapter 6. Your favorite prayer, right? Here am I. Send me.

How many of you have already prayed that prayer? Quite a few of you. That doesn't mean God will send you to Moldava. He did to the Cassidys.

He may send you to Boston. He may send you down the street. But as we look at Isaiah 6 probably tomorrow, we're gonna see that every believer is a sent one.

For Jesus himself said, As the Father sent me, so send I you. Tonight I see seven people. We've had a small picture, right? I want you to shift gears.

Can you shift gears with me? Watch my little Emily drive that pickup truck, shifting gears. That old truck was a little difficult. I want you to shift from the small picture to the big picture.

And I want you to get a vision of seven peoples. Each one of these peoples represents millions that are laying by the side of the road. The first one I see laying by the side of the road are the children.

Millions. Children at risk. Colombo, 25,000 children sold into the sexual slave market.

Have you ever prayed for them? Who do you think their customers are? Sri Lankans? No. They're Americans. Not so many Americans, more British.

It's a long way to go to have sex with a child. You can get it quite easily actually in the United States. Though you may end up in prison.

Millions of street children. Millions of age-related orphans. I remember meeting a guy years ago.

You may want to write his name down. Patrick McDonald. He was Danish and English.

Amazing. He started something completely new. It was called Viva Networks.

Not known in the States. His passion, and he was extreme. He still is.

His passion was the children of the world. When I first met him and read about Viva Network, I couldn't figure out what they were going to do. Because it was not going to be an organization sending out missionaries.

It was going to be a network for research, for motivation, for challenge. As they researched, they found out the Church of Jesus Christ is one of the number one groups in the world working among children at risk. Isn't that beautiful? As he did more research, he discovered, of course, the vast percentage of children in the world are left out.

Because it's so huge. The challenge is so huge. Children who are serving in armies and are under 16, carrying machine guns.

Children sold into sexual slavery like thousands of Nepali girls sold into the sexual slave industry of Bombay. Thousands, millions sold into factory work. Now, some of that is not so bad.

And it's better for them to do that than starve to death. But a lot of that factory work for children is horrendous. Now, the danger of this message is it's too much.

But as you hear what I share, understand God knows that for us, including me, it's too much. And so I believe God is saying to us tonight, listen. Be alerted.

Take in what you can. And then move just one step at a time by my grace to do what you can. But even if tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock we start praying for these people, these children, with a little more compassion than maybe yesterday, then it will have been worthwhile giving this hour together.

Children at risk. By the way, if one year from now you can share with me these seven children or these seven peoples. First one is children.

If you can remember these seven people, I will bless you with seven outstanding books as a gift and a thank you because those of us who preach, we know that within a few days many people can't remember anything that was said. That's just the way it is. And it gets quite discouraging at times.

But I believe the Holy Spirit in answer to prayer is going to move upon our hearts. I've already seen that in the feedback people have given me in the last 24 hours. And I really believe that the nations of the world, yes, the children of the world are going to ultimately, it may take time, indirectly a whole new mission may be born out of what gets said here tonight as it goes to other parts of the country through cassette tape.

But I believe the children of the world will feel the impact of the faith that we exercise tonight. The second people or peoples I see by the side of the road are the abused women. Now in any message, we're limited in what we can say, right? So we don't want you men to feel left out.

We know men get abused. We know the whole thing of war impacts men in a phenomenal way. Men suffer from injustice.

We're together. When it comes to suffering, men and women, we're in it together. But this is a burden God's put on my heart because I have to confess to you that I abused my own wife.

No, I never hit her. I abused her with this big mouth from New Jersey, with unkind words. My wife had a lot of struggles as a woman.

Her father was killed. She developed three psychosomatic illnesses. Her stepfather threw her out of the home.

That's how I ever met her. Just like Joseph ended up in Egypt. Did God not use that for good, even though it was evil? So the stepfather throwing my wife out of the home, she ended up at Moody Bible Institute, or I would have never met her.

I shared that story already. But because of that, she had a lot of emotional baggage, a lot of insecurity. And it looked like after we met and we thought we should get married, it looked for a while like it wasn't going to work out.

We went down to Mexico together one summer. I think this was in 59 or 58, just before we were married. And I left her there.

I was a bit rough. I said, you stay on here and learn the language. My best Mexican friend fell in love with her and called me up and asked me for my fiancé.

I had told him in a moment of weakness. Whatever I had, he could have it. So he phoned me up and asked me for my fiancé.

That was quite a challenge. And when I talked to her, fortunately she was still interested in me. Thank you, Jesus.

And so I said, I think you ought to come back from Mexico City. And when she came back, she was not in a good condition. And these illnesses, these emotionally related illnesses, headaches, backaches, heart difficulty, they were seemingly getting worse.

And here's the testimony of my wife. She sat in a Keswick type of meeting in Chicago and she heard about the all-sufficiency of Jesus. She heard about the fact that in Him, Colossians says, in Him, is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

She fell asleep after we were realizing it probably wasn't going to work with us. I didn't have enough love. I didn't have enough tenderness.

I was not sensitive enough. She fell asleep that night with a greater understanding that it wasn't Jesus and George. Up to then, it was Jesus and George.

She had said, I'll be a missionary, but I want to be married. That was her prayer. And that night, she said, I'll go where you want me to go.

I'll do what you want me to do. She fell asleep and was healed of those illnesses in the night and woke up. And I've seen that reality in her these 45 years.

But because of my struggle with impatience, my pilgrimage, my weaknesses, sin, there are times I look back, I know I abused my own wife with my tongue. And if any of you men are guilty of that, whatever you do, don't justify it. Don't play games with God.

Even if your wife is accustomed to it and she somehow bounces back, because in our culture today, many are not bouncing back. They're going for the divorce courts. And it's horrendous what can happen, even in Christian homes.

But that is really not what's mainly on my heart concerning women. I'm thinking of things much worse. I'm thinking of how much rape there is in the world today and how little is done about it.

I'm thinking of female circumcision that's going on in Africa, which is worse than rape. The mutilation of the female organs. You know, I've been able to read almost anything about suffering and I can get through it.

I've never been able to finish the articles that are sent to me on female circumcision. I have never finished the article. I get in a rage.

I start crying. I start arguing with God. Why doesn't he intervene? How can this be in modern society that's now spreading to Britain? The Africans who are into this are spreading it all over the world and we have female circumcision going on in the United States, right under our nose.

And we, unlike European countries, we don't even have any legislation against it up till now. The abuse of women in the world is one of the most hideous things going on and with all the muscle of the so-called United Nations, they do very little about the abuse of women. And if there are some Christian women here with a feminist streak, you ought to go down there and bang on the door of the United Nations and we ought to bang on the door of our own government to somehow do more about the situation that women are faced with.

We know what they were going through in Afghanistan under the Taliban and hardly anybody was saying anything. Finally, part of the feminist movement started to speak out about what the women were suffering. And what women are suffering under Islam is beyond comprehension.

And now, not always, not every case, but now we are under pressure never to talk about it. We have to tiptoe around and not offend any of our Muslim friends because we're told that's going to create more terrorists. There are many moderate Muslims.

There is a feminist movement among Muslim women. It exists in Saudi Arabia. Guess what these brave women did in Saudi Arabia? They got in their cars and drove around a parking lot.

They got stopped. It's illegal. Women are not allowed to drive cars in Saudi Arabia.

How do you handle hypocrisy? Do you sort of... You know, what are you, the laid-back type? You know, hypocrisy, it doesn't matter. I hate hypocrisy. And I am deeply concerned.

And we have this unique, special relationship with Saudi Arabia that is one of the greatest breachers of human rights in the world. And we have a very special relationship with China, which is unbelievable. Staggering breaches of human rights.

I'm not against diplomacy. And I need wisdom. But at least I can pray.

And I'm asking you to pray for the women of the world and to read more about them. And I want to send you a book written by a New Englander, one of my favorite New Englanders. She's in my top ten.

Her name is Debbie Merrill. When they printed her new book, they only did 3,000 copies. I just couldn't believe it.

I didn't even know it was happening. And so I don't even have copies of Debbie's book on my book table, and I am ashamed. But she has written a book about women that is one of the greatest single books.

I have to go back here and get my water. Then you can see the back of my jacket. One of the greatest books that we've ever got involved in.

And I'll be happy to send you that book as a gift. Just give Roy a note with your address. Send a copy of True Grit.

And that book will come to you. The third person I see laying by the side of the road is the extreme poverty-stricken person. Now, we know we have poor people in America.

I just read a book review about a book that shows that 25% of all Americans are on the minimum wage. And I want to be sensitive. This is my own country.

Still have that British passport. I still vote. But let me tell you this.

The poverty here, it's a joke next to what exists in other countries. A lot of the poor people here, they smoke \$20 of cigarettes in a week. They drink another \$20 of whiskey and wine in a week.

You have a question? Go ahead, say it. I was raised poor. You were raised poor.

I'm going to pick it up on my mic. I was raised poor. Americans don't know what poor is.

When you see people who have no hope, who have no money, who have no opportunity, have nothing, then you know who your neighbor is, who is poor. That's right. Thank you.

Thank you. And again, we don't want people to overreact and think, well, we can do nothing about the poor because I believe in our own country because God has put us here. And I believe there's a lot of scripture that teaches we have to bloom where we are.

And if we only think of the extreme poor, that I'm going to talk about in a few minutes, and we don't bother with people that are right at our doorstep, that is to cut the Good Samaritan story out of the Bible and throw it out the window. The key in all this, of course, is that God will lead different people in different ways. But we can all at least have a general burden.

Then when we meet someone working among the poor in Kenya, and I just walked through a slum in Kenya a few months ago. One million people in that slum. If you could walk with me through that slum, that would be more impact on you than probably my messages all week here.

One lady was at a prayer meeting that I was speaking at. She got a phone call that her house in the slum just burned down. Well, there's nothing to burn down.

It just sort of gutted and began to melt the mud. And so I went with her. You can't drive there.

You walk down a smelly alley of open sewage. You find this house. This was a Christian lady.

This is a sister in Jesus. She had been crying. We had been praying with her.

By the time we got to her house, I saw the miraculous grace of God on this woman. She started to rejoice in God's mercy and started to minister to her sister who was crying. This is in front of my eyes.

And I got to know her son. I believe missionaries have been some of the greatest people in the world to help the poor. And it is sad that American missionaries are now being bad-mouthed by quite a few Christian leaders.

And quite a few famous churches are boasting that they don't send out American missionaries. And a top leader said at a conference I just preached at in Columbus the year before I got there that American missionary work, as far as sending missionaries, that's history. That is such ignorance.

That is so sad. Of course other countries are getting in on it more. Of course in 10 years or maybe 20 years other countries altogether may have more missionaries than the United States.

Praise the Lord! American missionaries helped birth many of those churches. It's not either or. But I believe American missionaries are needed as much as ever before.

Not in the same places. Not always doing the same job. But look at the 20 countries we prayed for in the last couple of days.

Do they not need workers? And once we move from just winning people to Christ and church planting and discipling and all that kind of thing into what we're talking about tonight you need 10 times as many people. You need 100 times as much money. So brothers and sisters we need a baptism of good Samaritan reality.

I praise God for so many great movements even new movements that are doing something among the poor. But the job is overwhelming. We need more.

We need more prayer. We need more workers. We need more finance.

And I believe I believe God is going to lead you who are here tonight, so many of us to share this vision maybe through books, maybe through cassette tapes to share this vision. I have this message on DVD. I don't think I have many copies here.

You can take that and send it to somebody for a very low amount of postage and a similar message to this they can watch it in their own living room. And we can see God multiply the prayer and the workers and the finance. And I believe when this vision really hits us it impacts the way we live.

It impacts the way we spend money. Without getting into judgmentalism about other people because we have to bloom where we are and not come across to our non-Christians like some kind of weirdos because we never do this or never do that. It's not easy.

The fourth person I see laying by the side of the road is the person with HIV and AIDS. Night after night I've been begging you to take this book, free of charge A Sceptic's Guide to the Global AIDS Crisis and most of you have taken this so now it's time for me to thank you. And I would urge you to read it.

You can read it in two hours. It's a lot of pictures. A lot of big print, all these big print.

If you want another 20 copies you just tell me where to send them. I want to get this book out. We published this.

God gave us this vision. Have you ever read World Magazine? It's sort of trying to compete with Time and Newsweek. Sort of a right-wing Christian magazine.

I subscribe to it. Have you ever seen that, World Magazine? Not so well known in New England. They have an ad in the classified section that says 400,000 people read this.

So I put an ad there. I offered this book. Free of charge.

Free of charge. Ten dollar book. 20 people responded.

Nationwide. 20 people responded. Brothers and sisters, repentance is good for the soul.

Let's repent that we have been indifferent to HIV and AIDS. We have been indifferent. We have read very little about it.

We have done even less. It has begun to change. Our government has changed in the last couple of years.

People like Rick Warren of Saddleback. I was with Kay and Rick out there in California. Kay, even though she's battling cancer, she is committed to battle HIV and AIDS.

And there are changes. But it's so slow. We need, we need a grassroots movement of concern about HIV and AIDS.

40 million are infected. In some places, it's 20%. 20% in some countries in Africa.

China, major. India, major. Russia, major.

Staggering. And you'll read about it in this book and other articles. Let's, by faith, reach out.

Let's, by faith, become proactive. We can see. We can see as they did in Uganda.

We can see the tide turned back with less infections. People live a little longer. We can reach them with the gospel.

The fifth person I see laying by the side of the road. This may surprise some of you. It's the person that can't get a glass of water.

I'm so grateful for my water. But I have to confess, I take it for granted. I don't think you have a big water shortage in New Hampshire.

What about the Canadians? They really have a shortage of water in Canada. There's probably enough water in Canada to supply the water for a good part of the entire world. I don't think the Canadians have started to export it.

I'm not a prophet, but I predict that water someday will be a major export. It will flow through pipelines just like oil. And it will be more expensive than oil.

I don't know how many years that will take. But the world, the planet, is in a massive water crisis. Again, missions have begun to get on the cutting edge.

They're drilling wells. They're finding water. In Tajikistan, we have a simple little apparatus.

It looks like a barrel. Anybody can make one, and we can give pure water to the people of Tajikistan. Would you pray as we in OM shift from just giving the water of life to giving water and the water of life at the same time? It's a huge thing for our movement and other movements are going through the same transition to somehow take on this challenge of the whole person.

And we see it. We see it as part of building the kingdom. We are not just called to evangelize the world.

We are called to build the kingdom everywhere. The sixth person I see laying by the side of the road is the unborn baby. Do you know in some countries in the church, this is never mentioned.

I go to one of those countries in a few weeks, and God's putting it on my heart. For the first time, I've been there many times, spoken to one of the biggest churches in the nation, 700,000 members. It's a very disappointing meeting.

Only 8,000 showed up. I'm going to be speaking if God gives me the grace about abortion. Abortion is wrong.

Maybe there's a gray area. You know, some people want to get in an argument about rape cases. They want to get in an argument about situations where the woman is going to die.

For the sake of my pragmatic side, I'm not going to get in that argument. That's not the way it is with most of these unborn ones. They are murdered, and it is wrong.

And praise God that Americans have spoken out on this issue. Even when I was silent, when my friend Dr. Schaeffer, toward the end of his life, believed this was the biggest issue in his life, I thought my friend Dr. Schaeffer had gone extreme. His son Frankie seemed to go more extreme.

I took counsel from a European, and that European, because Europeans are much more liberal on this, they sort of urged me, don't get involved. We don't want the leader of OM to get involved in this issue. I share before you on cassette tape the greatest mistake in my life, I've made many, is the failure to do more about abortion.

I think it's clear in the word of God, and if you have doubts, I'd ask you to pick up Randy Alcorn's book, or you can write me, and get Randy Alcorn's book on this subject, which is up here somewhere, but I can't, I can't find it. Maybe the copies are still there on the book table. And then the seventh person, and we're going to finish.

Thank you for your patience. The seventh person laying by the side of the road, and this really does surprise my friends, I was just talking to Gordon McDonald on the telephone, the former pastor of a famous church here, is now the chairman of World Relief. He used to come here all the time as a little one.

And I was just sharing this burden I have to speak out on these issues. And he was encouraging me somehow to be bold and to keep going. The seventh person I see laying by the side of the road is Mr. Planet.

I see a wounded planet. I see the disappearing rainforests. I see thousands of disappearing species.

This is not a major issue with me. I got too many other things on my plate, but it has become an issue. And I can only say, I want to learn.

A number of godly Christians, one from Sri Lanka, has written a book about this. It's all tied in with God's creation. In my devotions this morning, I read some verses.

I should have written them down. That inspired me that I should be more concerned about God's creation. First of all, human beings, of course.

But also, God's other creatures, the trees, and the species. Christians have tended to stay away from this because people that got into this, many of them were so extreme. At least I did.

I can't speak for you. I overreacted and made fun of these people and said, this is a tangent. How are we going to evangelize the world if we're all caught up, you know, in some of these environmental issues? Again, I made a mistake.

God's forgiven me. So now, I speak out. I don't say much.

You know, I'm not some super influential person. But I speak out. And others are speaking out.

And guess what? In some cases, because Christians were speaking out, non-Christians are beginning to listen to us also about Jesus. So it's worth at least being open. You may have your strong views, but at least being open so that non-Christians feel they can talk to us.

Because at the end of the day, our number one passion is to win men and women to Jesus Christ. I don't want to ever forget that. You know, all the other things I'm involved in.

All the other funds and fundraising that I'm involved in. These seven people on the side of the road that I feel deep passion for. That I think of throughout the day.

That I work toward attempting to do something about. I never want to forget that men are lost. And there's no greater problem than the problem of sin.

And a lot of these problems are tied in with the sinfulness of human beings. Even as governments battle poverty. There's a lot of talk about that lately.

Blair and Bush met together. But one thing they're not wanting to talk about. The huge level of corruption in these nations.

So that we release these great funds. Millions are talking billions. And huge chunks of it ends up in secret bank accounts in Switzerland.

By men who are greedy and evil. I tell you. The government does not have the answer.

The UN does not have the answer. You and I. Disciples of Jesus. We have the answer.

Salvation through Christ. My friend Luis Palau once said, I'll never forget it. The greatest way to bring social change is to see people saved.

To see people born again. When I was born again in New Jersey to Billy Graham 50 years ago. Little did we know what God was going to do.

And now as we've grown into a mature mission emphasis with both aspects of the gospel. Is there going to be any change? Is there going to be any transformation? Are government and government leaders going to be impacted? They are. I don't have time to talk about the Dalits.

The untouchables. It comes under the category of the extreme poor. I haven't had time to talk to you about human rights.

Because in India we have joined with the Dalits not just to win them to Christ. We have joined with them in solidarity. One quarter of a billion Dalit untouchables to stand with them for human rights.

And through prayer we've already seen the extreme Hindu government moved out of power.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/10/SID10969.mp3>
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