



## Dear Crossroads Family,

Robert Morris shared the following story in his book, *The Blessed Life*:

“I distinctly remember the first time we ever went out to eat after I had accepted Christ. I found myself wanting somehow to share Jesus with the waitress who was serving us. Then an idea came to me. If I didn't order a meal, I could take that money and leave it as an extra-generous tip along with an evangelistic tract. Maybe the tip would encourage her to read the tract and come to know the Lord. So that's what we did. Before we left, we said a few words to her about how much God cared about her.

About a month later, we were back in that restaurant for our monthly "splurge." Through the month, I had prayed that God would bless us with enough extra money to be able to leave an even bigger tip along with another tract.

Just as I had asked, our faithful God had allowed us to accumulate an extra \$50 that we could leave along with a booklet about salvation. That night we requested the same waitress and left her a \$50 tip on a \$10 meal.

We returned to the restaurant one month later, very eager to see if that waitress was still working there. She was, indeed.

When she saw us, she said, "I read that little booklet you left last time you were here." We tried not to show how excited we were to hear that. She continued, "And I prayed that prayer to receive Christ at the end of it." Of course, we were thrilled to hear that. But she wasn't finished. "Then I called my husband on the phone and read the whole booklet to him, and he prayed that prayer, too."

At that point, I said, "That's wonderful! But what do you mean, you called your husband? Does he travel for a living?"

Looking embarrassed, she said, "No, my husband is in prison. He will get out in two or three years. We both want to thank you for leaving me that booklet and being so generous. Money has been pretty scarce since he went to prison."

Over the next few years, my wife and I disciplined this sweet waitress and saw great spiritual growth. We also began to mentor her husband in prison. When he was released, he joined the church with his wife, and they were baptized together. I had the privilege of knowing that the lives and eternal destinies of this couple had been changed because I gave."

To be entrusted with the responsibility to reach out to others with the gospel can seem to be a heavy responsibility. But as the Parable of the Sower reminds us, we are not responsible for the growth and progress of the gospel. We are only responsible for "scattering seed." We can plant and we can water, but God gives the increase.

This Sunday we will be considering another analogy for what our role is regarding our service in the kingdom.

(Sermon notes are provided below.) Maybe, with a clear sense of what is expected of us and what is not, we can become faithful fishers of men.

Sunday is going to be great. God will be present. I hope you will be too!

Love,  
Bro. Doug

PS., Don't forget that the 7<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday of the month, so we will have the red bins out to collect food items and diapers for those in need. Though you may never know the impact of your giving, I know our God knows how to use your generosity to encourage needy believers and even bring people to Christ through food ministries. It's easy to do your part—to bring a few cans of food or a package of diapers. The hard part is remembering. This is your reminder!

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***First-Responder Followers of Christ***  
***Luke 5:12-16 & 27-32***

Many Christians focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ when they encounter people who suffer from a \_\_\_\_\_ with the world and sin. Luke 5 links two incidents to make a massive theological point about responding to people in need of Jesus.

The 1<sup>st</sup> incident is about a man with leprosy. A Jewish audience would know that this disease caused him to be pronounced ritually \_\_\_\_\_. He was cut off from people, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the sacrificial system. His condition was perceived as God's \_\_\_\_\_ for some sin. Without access to the temple sacrifices, he couldn't receive \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Levi was considered a traitor and extortioner. Like the leper, he was banned from the temple. Both the leper and Levi were functionally \_\_\_\_\_ to decent Jewish society and cut off from God's mercy. You couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ a leper. You couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ with tax collectors.

So, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the leper and joins the tax collector and his friends for a \_\_\_\_\_. He was addressing the most significant needs of these men: to be given \_\_\_\_\_ and real \_\_\_\_\_. To be \_\_\_\_\_ into the forgiving, loving presence of God.

A Christian steps into a broken world to point people to the Great Physician. 1) Like a paramedic, our job is to stabilize people injured by a broken world with a touch of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and the truth about \_\_\_\_\_ and gently \_\_\_\_\_ people to the Great Physician. 2) Like a paramedic, we can't get distracted trying to "\_\_\_\_\_" people's \_\_\_\_\_ problems; their external habits, \_\_\_\_\_ views, or social flaws first.

Many instances of church hurt come when we try to \_\_\_\_\_ the work of the Great Physician and step out of the role of 1<sup>st</sup> responder. We can't manipulate, argue, or otherwise \_\_\_\_\_ people to be saved. We can't try to "fix" them and make them more \_\_\_\_\_ to us or to Jesus. We are to \_\_\_\_\_ the person by reaching out with love, acceptance, and the truth about salvation. Then, to \_\_\_\_\_ them to the one who can \_\_\_\_\_: Jesus.

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**A Few Announcements:**

Join us Sunday evening! You are invited for a Celebration of Gary Padgett's 50 Years in Gospel Ministry as a missionary, from 5:00-6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

Please be in prayer for the youth as they leave Monday morning for summer camp at Highland Lakes Camp. They will be at camp from June 8-12.

VBS Missions Project 2026: We invite you to pray and give a donation to help buy Children's Bibles for needy families to be distributed by Buckner Family Center on Marbach West of Loop 410. Contributions are requested from Crossroads members and VBS families. Please designate your donation to VBS Missions Project 2026.

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