

NOT SO INNOCENT BYSTANDER

What is an innocent bystander?

-A guiltless witness of a crime. A spectator, a testifier. Someone who stands by while something bad is happening and doesn't do or say anything.

Why don't people get involved in emergencies?

Bystander effect

-An individual is less likely to provide assistance in an emergency as the number of people around increases.

Matthew 24:12, 2 Timothy 3:1-5

-The love of many will grow cold.

What is our responsibility?

Obadiah 1:1-14

-Edom, the nation descended from Esau, did not help their brothers, the nation of Israel, when they were being invaded. Not only did they stand and watch, but they also even joined in, looting Israel and turning over survivors to Israel's enemies. As such, they were harshly rebuked by the Lord.

2 Peter 3:9

-The Lord doesn't wish that any person should perish. We can't just stand and watch anymore as people fall towards eternal destruction. We have to help!

Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:25-37

-Jesus said that the most important commandments are to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. I love myself enough to pursue relationship with God. Am I willing to do that for my neighbor?

-What are we doing with these blessings God has given us? Are we driving by, or are we helping?

-Just as the Samaritan did all he could to help the injured man, Jesus commanded us to go and do likewise. We can't be not-so innocent bystanders any longer. We can't be afraid to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. We can't be afraid to be who God has called us to be. The same way we spend time building ourselves up and putting ourselves into a position to grow and mature in Christ, we help others do the same.

Psalms 139

We can't assume that someone else will reach people with the gospel. Let's get back to the basics: love the Lord with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength; and, love your neighbors as yourself. And if God has told us to do it, we can do it!

Ezekiel 36:26

We need a new heart that loves others, not the heart of stone. God wants us to do **all** that we can to reach our neighbors.