

Look for Opportunity

10 Days ago, on March 13, 2020, I sent you word that our services would be canceled due to Santa Clara's ban on gatherings of more than 100 -- And 7 days ago, the "Shelter in Place" restriction was issued. I asked you then to concentrate on three things:

- Go to the Pouring Place of the WORD - be filled with God's Promises instead of Man's Fear
- **Look for Opportunity**
- Continually Give Thanks

Luke 10:30-37

³⁰Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

³¹"By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. ³²A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

³³"Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. ³⁴Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, "Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here."

³⁶"Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. ³⁷The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

Irritating Interruptions, Insignificant Invisibilities, Others-Centered Opportunities?

- **These past 10 days and the next several weeks/months will be a good indication of the lens you're looking through in living your life. It's evident in our talk and our actions.**
 - **Irritating Interruptions**
 - Talk
 - *"The stinking internet is so slow now..."*
 - *"It's gonna take like an hour and half to get our pizza delivered!"*
 - *"I had to drive to 5 places to find toilet paper!"*
 - Actions
 - Complaining
 - Anxiety
 - Getting Stuff Done
 - **Insignificant Invisibilities**
 - Talk
 - *"I'm so bored"*

- Gorging on Self-Entertainment
- Oblivious to Other People's Needs and/or Pain
- **Others-Centered Opportunities**
 - Talk
 - *"Only the Lord could get the homeless off the street..." -- Zoe*
 - *"The grumpy neighbors I avoided, now see me as their new best friend..." -- Helen*
 - *"My husband and I actually have time together...spending time building a stronger marriage" -- Kitty*
 - Action
 - Reaching Outside
 - Asking How We Can Help
 - Looking for Ways to Encourage, Help, and Comfort
 - Remembering the Margins
 - Homeless
 - Imprisoned
 - Unprotected Workers
 - Weak, Sick, the Hungry
 - Using and Finding Resources for Others

1 John 3:16-18

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

The Mr. Marvin Precedent

- Just do what you can...for others.
- **You Have a Brand New Directory – Use It!**
 - Call, Encourage, and Check on Others
(If you need a copy of the directory, I can email you a PDF version).

Are You Looking & Listening?

- Last week the Holy Spirit gave us a message to comfort and reassure us...
- This week, He's given us a message to now comfort and reassure others...
 - To pour into others what He is pouring into us...
- **Don't be surprised as you continue down your path in the coming days if you come upon someone broken, wounded, afraid, robbed of courage or hope, and in need...**

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. ⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

1 Peter 4:12-13

¹² Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.