

BE CONCERNED FOR OTHERS

Philippians 2:4 “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Personal rights is a big issue in this country. “No one can tell me what to do!,” is a statement heard fairly frequently. “I have my rights!” “Let me do what I want to do and I will let you do what you want to do.”

There are any number of places in Holy Scripture that address such comments. The Good Samaritan had little concern for himself and total concern for the wounded Jewish stranger laying in the ditch. (Luke 10:25-37) The Disciples wanted to send the hungry crowd of 5,000 men, plus women and children off to find their own food. Jesus told them to feed the crowd. (Matthew 14:13-21)

You are most likely familiar with the Golden Rule, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” This is actually a teaching of Jesus. (Mark 12:31) This teaching is almost counter-cultural to our day and age. Instead, we hear people say, “I have to look out for number one (meaning themselves.)”

Jesus modeled the Golden Rule, did He not? He was God! He did not have to come to earth, suffer the abuse of the world, and die on Calvary’s cross. He did not do this for Himself. He did this for you! He did this for all people. He did this for those who would and for those who would not believe in Him. When Jesus saw the sick, blind, deaf, dumb He did not say to them, “Your problem is not my problem. . .” He had compassion on them (Mark 6, Matthew 9, etc.)

In the current personal rights battle regarding whether to become vaccinated, wear masks, etc., have you thought to apply Jesus’ teaching (parable of the Good Samaritan, Golden Rule) to this situation? You may indeed believe you have no need to be vaccinated. You are willing to take your chances. Note who is number one in both statements. Have you ever considered being vaccinated or wearing a mask for the sake of your neighbor. . .your friend. . .the person with whom you work next to. . .or the complete stranger you have never met?

Jesus taught, “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Prayer: O Lord, give me eyes to see and ears to hear of the needs of others and then in Your name to do what is for their benefit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none The longed-for Christ would know.
But, Oh, my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day Hosanna to their King.
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these Themselves displease And 'gainst Him rise.

They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He To suff'ring goes That He His foes From thence might free.

In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!
(LSB 430)