

# Indifference

Hebrews 5:12-14

Introduction: “Shortly after 3 a.m. Catherine Genovese came home from work. As she walked towards her apartment in the Queens section of N.Y. City, a man came out of the darkness and attacked her with a knife. Her screams awakened the neighborhood; lights flashed on and a few windows opened in the apartment building across the street. The assailant left, the lights went out and the windows closed. The man returned to his victim. Once again the lights and windows responded and the attacker drove away. “Kitty” began crawling to her apartment. Twenty minutes later, the man returned and finished his mission of death. NOT ONE PERSON telephoned the police during the assault, even though 38 people witnessed the savage attack. The excuse was as one man put it, “I didn’t want to get involved.” (Let Them Die!! By Jefferson David Tant)

If you were one of the 38 witnesses to this attack, would you have gotten involved? But consider an even more terrifying situation. Last year one of your neighbors, relatives or acquaintances died and will likely go to hell. What did you do to prevent that tragedy?

Roughly half of this congregation was **not** born into families of Christians. Where would you be today and in eternity if someone had not taken an interest in your soul? How many people have you personally won to Christ?

Why do we feel we would be willing to help someone being physically harmed but we don’t want to get involved in another’s spiritual welfare?

## I. Lack of knowledge.

A. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos.4:6). The truth is we learn what we want to learn (ex. Driving a car, cooking, holding a job, passing an exam, etc.)

B. We can learn the word of God and how to teach it to others (1 Tim. 4:13-14; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17; Heb. 5:12; Eph. 3:3-4; 5:17).

## II. Lack of prospects.

A. Have you ever met a salesman who doesn’t sell; a ball player who doesn’t play in a game or a Christian who doesn’t save souls?

B. When you had good news to share (bought a house, a new car, won a contest, had a great vacation, etc.) did you honestly have a problem finding someone to tell? God’s word is the good news to all mankind!

C. We must always be ready to explain God’s word (1 Pet. 3:15).

D. Lest we think most people we know wouldn't be interested please consider whether you think Saul of Tarsus would have made a good prospect in your book either!

### III. Fear of rejection.

A. The desire to be liked is common to us all. The fear of losing a friendship or destroying our reputation with others is a strong deterrent. However, the rejection of God's word is not a personal matter (Luke 10:16).

B. The truth will not always be well received (Gal. 4:16; 2 Tim. 3:12; Matt. 10:34-38).

C. We should fear the rejection by Christ more than the rejection by men (Matt. 10:27-31).

D. We must learn to rely on the gospel where the power of salvation abides (Rom. 1:16).

Conclusion: Do we not care that people in the world are dying without the hope of salvation? Maybe we should emulate Paul's attitude toward the lost (Acts 20:18-27). If we are indifferent to the lost condition of others, the Lord will cut us off (John 15:1-6). We won't go to heaven if we don't bear fruit for the Lord! What are you doing about this vital matter?

Sing song #598: "You Never Mentioned Him To Me"