



Help Those With Disabilities

Activity

Make a list of all the people you know with disabilities.

Biblical Insight

Unfortunately, some people conduct themselves only on the promise of reward or retribution. They will do something good only if they are rewarded, and will refrain from evil only for fear of punishment. People with disabilities are prime targets of abuse for such people. After all, the man who can't see doesn't know who placed a stumbling block before him (and cannot prove that it was done on purpose). The Deaf woman doesn't know the insults spoken when her head is turned.

Leviticus 19:14 states clearly the need to assist the blind and deaf rather than hinder them. Most of the various laws listed in Leviticus 19 are clearly stated, such as "Do not lie" (verse 11). Some are given the additional phrase, "I am the Lord." But only two laws have the phrase "fear your God," contained in the statement, the directions for the treatment of the disabled (verse 14) and elderly (see verse 32, KJV). This added phrase is to give extra emphasis to the need to abide by those laws.

Composition

Psalm 41:1-3 lists the blessings God bestows on those who have regard for the weak. What are the promises? List them.

Discussion

Read John 5:1-9. If Jesus had asked the paralyzed man, "How can I help you?" it is likely the man would have responded, "By staying and helping me into the pool." But Jesus knew the man's underlying need was for healing, not for getting into the pool. Jesus assessed the need and healed him. Christians have a similar responsibility to assess the true needs of people with disabilities. What is the primary need of all people, whether or not they have disabilities? How might we help them? Remember, all people have prayer needs such as loneliness, sadness, and friendship issues.

Evaluation

Our help for the disabled should include prayer for their healing, as well as forms of practical assistance. This assistance can include lifting a wheelchair up a step, or even standing back and allowing a person to do something himself to develop his own skills and independence. Have you spent the time to assess the needs of others around you?

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Lesson 86

- A: Answers will vary.
- C: God promises blessings, help in time of trouble, protection from one's enemies, and healing from sickness.
- D: Salvation. We can help by showing them genuine love and a witness of Jesus.

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