

*New Series: One At A Time, based on book by Kyle Idleman*

3/3/24 “Loving One At A Time,” Luke 8:40-56, MEV

**INTRODUCTION:** a day at a time, Want to witness but don’t know where to begin? Anxious?

**Matthew 9:36, NLT:** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. [*Most people are confused, helpless, even if they don’t know it. Our purpose is to help them to know Him.*]

“Jesus, give me eyes Your eyes to see people” —*Kyle Idleman*

**MAIN IDEA: Let’s show others love as Jesus did.** How do we do that? Here are three steps.

**I. First, focus on one person out in crowd** (*some examples...*)

A. in front of us (41, *also Zacchaeus in tree, Luke 19:4*)

1. might come to us for help
2. might block our path (Jairus fell at His feet)

B. behind us (44-45)

1. who might “touch” us in a unique way (might speak quietly as though half hoping we won’t hear)
2. whom we might miss if we don’t look around

C. that we don’t yet “see” (49-50, *also demoniac, Mark 5:2*)

1. whom someone else brings to our attention (HS?)
2. who needs a touch of God... we are filled with His love, carrying His word, empowered by His Spirit

**Romans 5:5, TPT:** we can now experience the endless love of God cascading into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who lives in us!

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**II. Second, “listen” to the person** (*words, looks, actions*)

- A. their request of us (41, more than words—emotions, appearance, Jairus begged, distraught)
- B. even someone reluctant to speak (47, counseling, look for people who are quiet, withdrawn)
- C. even someone who cannot speak for herself (49-50)

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**III. Third, have a chat** (*Oh no! This is the hard part!*)

- A. ask a question (45-48)
  1. could lead to further conversation
  2. shows you care: How has your is your day going?
- B. encourage where you can (50)
  1. not what you can’t deliver
  2. can ask, “May I share what God has done for me?”
  3. maybe just say, “that sounds hard” or “cool”
- C. walk in the Spirit (54)
  1. quietly pray, asking, “What do You want to do?”
  2. watch & listen for what God is doing
  3. follow the Spirit’s lead if He speaks to you (54)

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**IV. Finally, pray** (*depending on how the conversation has gone*)

**NOTE:** We don’t see Jesus praying here, but we know He prays a lot. You and I would be praying in each instance—for healing, for comfort, for life.

- A. can say, “I’ll pray for you”
- B. or ask, “May I pray for you now?”
- C. or simply pray quietly aloud for the person as you leave

**ILLUSTRATION:**

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**CONCLUSION:** Easter cookie giveaway... building bridge, disarming. As we speak with people, God gives us opportunities. While some will not engage, many will. A few will even let us pray for them on the spot. It gets easier the more we do it.

**ALTAR:** Want to witness but are timid? Terrified of talking to others? Excited about trying?