

Death on the Mountain

In May 2006, David Sharp, a former mathematics teacher, set off from base camp to make his third attempt on Mount Everest. He actually reached the summit, but on his way down he ran out of oxygen. As he lay on the side of the mountain dying, 40 climbers passed him by.

Some say that at such oxygen-deprived altitudes, rescues are too perilous. But others contend that climbers are too eager to reach the top and too selfish to help those in trouble.

Sir Edmund Hillary, a New Zealand mountaineer who with Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers known to have reached the summit of Mount Everest, was highly critical of the decision not to try to rescue Sharp. He declared that leaving other climbers to die is unacceptable, and the desire to get to the summit has become all-important. "I think the whole attitude towards climbing Mount Everest has become rather horrifying. The people just want to get to the top. It was wrong if there was a man suffering altitude problems and was huddled under a rock, just to lift your hat, say good morning and pass on by," Hillary said.

We must wonder what would have happened if someone who passed that stricken climber had said, "I will treat him the way I want to be treated."

In Matthew 7:12, the golden rule, Jesus gave His disciples the secret to fulfilling the entire Old Testament relational regulations – *Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets*. How do we do that? By drawing on the strength that comes from the Holy Spirit within us.

This is the principle that is lived out every day in the work of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home – loving others and living for their benefit.

It is a noble calling, and one which allows us to walk in the steps of our Lord.

--Beecher Hunter