

Help for a Fallen Drunk

Author and pastor Gordon MacDonald – in a sermon delivered at Grace Chapel in Lexington, Massachusetts – offered a confession similar to what many of us have experienced.

Years ago, he flew to Minneapolis to speak at a conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Near the downtown area, his taxi stopped at a red light four cars back from the crosswalk.

MacDonald said he noticed a homeless man lurching between the cars in the middle of the street. When he got to the front of his taxi, he fell and landed on his chin. His chin split open, and there was blood all over the place.

“As I looked at this man six feet away, these thoughts went through my head,” MacDonald said:

1. “I have a brand-new suit on that Gail just bought me. I can’t afford to get messed up.
2. “I have to get to the convention center to speak in 15 minutes.
3. “I’m in a strange city, and I don’t know what to do.
4. “I don’t have any medical training. I wouldn’t know how to help this guy.”

Then, MacDonald wondered if there wasn’t a fifth thought underneath: *If you’re dumb enough to get that drunk, why should someone stop and help you?*

“For a few seconds, those thoughts militated against any movement on my part,” he said. “Before I could come to better senses, other people came rushing to this man’s help, and I was able to get back into my taxi and go on to the convention center to speak about sensitivity and caring for the needs of other human beings. Isn’t that stupid?”

No doubt, most of us can think of times when we have had similar excuses about individuals we encountered in one circumstance or another – and we missed an opportunity to be blessed by offering some sort of assistance.

Helping a neighbor – whom Jesus identified in the parable of the Good Samaritan – is what drives associates of Life Care and Century Park into the careers they have chosen.

Thank God for caring hearts – and eager hands!

Do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased (Hebrews 13:16 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter