

The Time for Action

It was just after 3 a.m. when the young woman pulled her red sports car into a parking space near her apartment.

She got out of the car, locked it, and began the 100-foot walk to her front door. She never made it.

A man grabbed her and stabbed her. Her frantic screams for help pierced the night. Lights began to go on as neighbors heard her cry out.

Eventually, someone called the police, who arrived to find the body of 28-year-old Kitty Genovese. Detectives investigating the crime discovered that a dozen or more people (*The New York Times* reported 38) had witnessed the crime, yet no one came to her aid, and no one called the police until she was dead.

Why? They did not want to get involved.



That brutal murder committed in 1964 came to be a symbol for the dark side of our national character. Psychologists and social scientists even coined a term – the Kitty Genovese Syndrome – to describe eyewitnesses to a tragedy who choose not to offer help.

“I didn’t want to get involved” seems to speak a truth no one wants to face head-on – that we’re often so concerned with ourselves and our own well-being that we ignore the needs of others around us whom we could help.

Think of it this way: Jesus didn’t ignore our desperate need for help. He came all the way down from heaven to save us. That kind of love should move us toward loving others.

And those who work in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home have made it their business to address the needs of people, offering their love and professional skills.

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so (Proverbs 3:27 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter