

Teachings As I Go Part 3

Placed, Identified, and Useful

Conclusion: Picking Up Those Who Are Lost and Broken

Purpose of This Teaching

As we go through life, God wants us to become more attentive to the people around us. We must learn to recognize those who are hurting, lost, broken, or seemingly without value—and be willing to **pick them up with kindness, compassion, and initiative**.

This teaching concludes the three-object lesson with a simple progression:

God has PLACED us.

God has IDENTIFIED us.

God has made us USEFUL.

And because God has picked us up, we can help pick up others.

1. The Final Object: Something Broken and Overlooked

As I continued walking, I noticed my third and final object.

It was some type of **clip with a broken piece of elastic string attached to it**. It was simply lying on the ground.

It appeared to have:

- No value
- No usefulness
- No owner
- Something broken
- Something easily overlooked

But as I picked it up, I began to think about God's Word.

1 Peter 2:10 says:

“Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy.”

The word **mercy** carries the idea of showing compassion or kindness toward someone in unhappy circumstances.

Here is the picture:

That object was on the ground—but I picked it up.

Likewise, there was a time when **we were spiritually lost, separated from God, and without hope.**

But God, in His mercy and kindness, **picked us up.**

2. God Picked Us Up

Think about what happened when I saw that object.

I:

- Gave it my attention.
- Was alert to my surroundings.
- Made a decision.
- Made myself available.
- Took the initiative.
- Picked it up so it would not continue being trampled.

No one told me to do it.

I simply **noticed it and acted.**

That gives us a powerful picture of how we can respond to people.

What Can We Do?

We can **pick people up** who appear to have no value.

We can demonstrate the kindness that God demonstrated toward us.

“For you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”

—1 Peter 2:3

And God's kindness has a purpose:

“God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance.”

—Romans 2:4

Don't just tell people about God's kindness.

Let them taste it through us.

3. Remember Where We Came From

Ephesians 2 gives us an important reminder.

There was a time when we were:

- Far from Christ
- Without God
- Without hope
- Separated
- Lost

But then comes the powerful transition:

“But now you belong to Christ Jesus...”

Through what Jesus Christ accomplished, those who were far away were brought near to God.

The passage concludes:

“Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family...”

Why?

Because out of His kindness, He picked us up!

That should change the way we look at people who are still on the ground.

4. Pick People Up

The question is no longer simply:

“What can God do for me?”

The question becomes:

“Who can I help pick up?”

The teaching gives us several practical responses:

Give people your attention.

Someone who is hurting may need someone who will simply stop and listen.

Be alert.

Look beyond yourself and notice what is happening around you.

Make a decision.

Sometimes helping someone requires a deliberate decision to become involved.

Make yourself available.

Broken people may require time, patience, and presence.

Take initiative.

Don't always wait until someone asks for help.

The teaching identifies five important character qualities:

Attentiveness

Alertness

Decisiveness

Availability

Initiative

5. Jesus Came to Seek and Save the Lost

Luke 19:10 gives us the mission:

“For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”

The object on the ground was lost.

And there was a time when **we were lost**.

Today there are people who are:

- Searching for a place of belonging
- Searching for identity
- Looking for value and worth
- Longing to become useful
- Living without knowing Jesus

The question is:

Will we see them?

And once we see them:

Will we pick them up?

6. How Valuable Is One Lost Person?

Jesus illustrated the value of the lost through the lost sheep and the lost coin.

A shepherd had ninety-nine sheep but went looking for the one that was lost.

A woman had ten valuable coins but searched carefully for the one she had lost.

When the lost was found, there was **rejoicing**.

Jesus connected this to the lost sinner:

Heaven rejoices when one sinner repents.

This gives us a challenging question:

How much effort did Jesus spend so that we could receive salvation?

And then:

How much effort are we willing to spend on behalf of the lost?

We can spend tremendous effort looking for a lost possession.

Do we have that same concern for lost people?

7. Character Quality #1: Sensitivity vs. Callousness

Sensitivity

**“Exercising my senses so I can perceive the true spirit and emotions of those around me.”
(IBLP)**

—Romans 12:15

One danger is becoming so focused on ourselves that we develop **tunnel vision**.

We see what concerns us—but fail to see what is happening around us.

Busyness can gradually affect our sensitivity.

Over time, our senses can become **callous toward others**, producing insensitivity.

We need dual sensitivity.

Be sensitive to what is happening in **your own life**, while remaining sensitive to what is happening in the lives of **those around you**.

Ask yourself:

“Lord, help me see what You see.”

8. Character Quality #2: Compassion vs. Indifference

Compassion means:

“Investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others.” (IBLP)

Compassion costs something.

It may cost:

- Time
- Attention
- Convenience
- Energy
- Rearranging our schedule

But if someone is hurting, we may need to change our plans to help them.

Sensitivity sees the need.

Compassion responds to the need.

We need **both**.

9. Bringing the Three Objects Together

Now we can connect all three objects from the series:

THING — Useful

God picked up the person who was once seemingly useless and made that person useful in Christ.

TAG — Identified

God identified us as His children. We have worth and value.

TILE — Placed

God placed us in the Body of Christ with a plan and purpose.

The progression is:

PLACED → IDENTIFIED → USEFUL

We have been designed by the Master Architect.

He has formed us.

He has placed us in the Body of Christ.

He has identified us as His sons and daughters.

And He has given us usefulness in His work.

We have a place.

We have an identity.

We have a purpose.

And the teaching summarizes that purpose:

“A plan and a purpose—to WIN!”

10. Applying the Teaching: The 4-E's Method

The application method for this teaching is:

E — Enlighten

Ask God to open the eyes of your understanding.

E — Engraft

Put God's Word and character qualities into your heart through memorization and meditation.

E — Exercise

Actually, practice what God has shown you.

E — Expect

Expect God to be faithful as you obey Him.

11. This Week: Accept Where God Has Placed You

Enlighten:

Ask the Father, in Jesus' name, to open the eyes of your understanding concerning your place in the Body of Christ.

Engraft:

Memorize **1 Corinthians 12:18**.

Engraft:

Memorize:

Endurance vs. Giving Up

The inward strength to withstand stress to accomplish God's best. (IBLP)
—Galatians 6:9

Exercise:

Accept where God has placed you and grow.

Faith Statement:

“God has a plan and purpose for my life. I will stay in God's Word to continue in His plan and purpose and win.”

Expect:

Expect God to exercise His faithfulness on your behalf.

12. Accept Your Identity

Under **Tag** — **Identification**:

Make the decision to **love and accept yourself**.

Then ponder:

Decisiveness vs. Double-mindedness

The ability to finalize difficult decisions based on the will and ways of God. (IBLP)

—James 1:5

God has identified you.

You do not have to live confused about your worth.

You belong to Him.

13. Look for Someone to Pick Up

Under **Thing** — **Useful**, make this your practical assignment:

Enlighten:

Pray that God enlightens the eyes of your understanding concerning the lost.

Engraft:

Memorize:

- Sensitivity vs. Callousness
- Compassion vs. Indifference

Exercise:

Visualize those who are lost as people who have **potential value to God's Kingdom**.

Then put it into action:

Discover three people who are in an unhappy circumstance—and pick them up.

That may mean:

- Encouraging someone
- Listening to someone
- Helping someone
- Praying with someone
- Showing kindness
- Sharing the Gospel
- Helping someone take a step toward Jesus

And finally:

Make a decision to seek the lost.

Conclusion: Someone Picked Us Up

That broken object lying on the ground looked insignificant.

But it became a teaching tool.

It reminded us of something much greater:

There was a time when we were lost.

We were separated from God.

We had no hope.

We had no way to rescue ourselves.

But God saw us.

God showed us mercy.

God picked us up.

God identified us as His own.

God placed us in the Body of Christ.

God made us useful.

And now He calls us to look around.

There are people who are hurting.

There are people who are lost.

There are people who feel useless.

There are people searching for identity, belonging, worth, and purpose.

Will we notice them?

Will we be sensitive?

Will we have compassion?

Will we make ourselves available?

Will we take initiative?

Someone picked us up.

Now let's be willing to pick someone else up.

Placed.

Identified.

Useful.

Picked up by God—and prepared to help pick up others.

[Click here.](#) Main resource.

Teachings As I Go – Part 3 (Conclusion)

(Tile-Placed) (Tagged-Identified) (Thing-Useful)

1 The Final Object

Something Broken and Overlooked



- A clip with a broken piece of elastic string
- No value
- Useless
- No owner
- Broken
- Easily overlooked

But as I picked it up, I began to ponder and thought of this verse.

1 Peter 2:10

"Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy." RSV

"Mercy" NT: 1653 (eleaoo)
The general meaning is to have compassion or mercy on a person in unhappy circumstances. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary) to be merciful; to show kindness (Romans 12:8). (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

2 God Picked Us Up

- I gave it my attention.
- I was alert to my surroundings.
- I made a decision.
- I made myself available.
- I took the initiative.
- I picked it up so it would not get trampled on any more.

No one told me to do it.
I simply noticed it and acted.

3 What Can We Do? (Focusing on kindness)

- Pick people up who seem to be useless and have mercy on them.
- Give people the taste of kindness that we tasted from God.
- Lead people to repentance through our kindness.
- Be kind to the unkind.



1 Peter 2:3

"For you have tasted the kindness of the Lord." RSV

Romans 2:4

"Do you not know that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" RSV

4 Remember Where We Came From Ephesians 2:8-19 (Key Points)

We Were:

- Far from Christ
- Without God
- Without hope
- Separated
- Lost

(On the ground)

But Now We Are:

- Belong to Christ Jesus
- Brought near to God
- Made one family
- Reconciled to God
- Members of God's family
- Citizens of God's country
- Useful in His work

Why? Because out of His kindness He picked us up!

5 Jesus Came to Seek and Save the Lost



"For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10

6 How Valuable Is One Lost Person?

- The lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7)
- The lost coin (Luke 15:8-10)
- Rejoicing in heaven when one sinner repents (Luke 15:10)

How much effort did Jesus spend so we could receive salvation? How much effort are we willing to spend on behalf of the lost?



7 Character Quality #1 Sensitivity vs. Callousness

"Sensitivity: Exercising my senses so I can perceive the true spirit and emotions of those around me." (IBLP)

Romans 12:15

Be sensitive to:

- Your own life
- The lives of those around you
- What God sees



8 Character Quality #2 Compassion vs. Indifference

"Compassion: Investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others." (IBLP)

Compassion costs something: time, attention, convenience, energy. Sensitivity sees the need. Compassion responds to the need.



9 The Three Objects Together

TILE
Placed



We have a place.

TAG
Identified



We have an identity.

THING
Useful



We have a purpose.

10 A Plan and a Purpose – To WIN!

- We have been designed by the Master Architect.
- He has formed us.
- He has placed us in the Body of Christ.
- He has identified us as His sons and daughters.
- He has given us usefulness in His work.

A plan and a purpose – to WIN!