



God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

A Barna research study found that more than 8 in 10 Americans think “God helps those who help themselves” is in the Bible. Spoiler alert: It’s not! The statement originated in Greek mythology in the 5th century before Jesus. It was popularized in America when it appeared in 1736 in Ben Franklin’s *Poor Richard’s Almanac*, and it’s been part of the American consciousness ever since.

Ice Breaker

Share a time you were busted as a kid getting a cookie/dessert/candy for yourself. As a kid did you ever steal candy from the convenience store? Share your story.

Opening Question

What stood out to you from the weekend message? Was there a scripture, principle, or action step that has stuck with you?

Scripture

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

What stands out to you in this passage?

Imagine you were a preacher of a church and you were about to speak on this passage. What would be your main point or points of application? What do you hear Paul asking us to do when you read this text?

Read Leviticus 23:22

What is God commanding the Israelites to do? What do you imagine God’s economy looks like based on this verse?

Picture a church that only takes care of themselves. What would be the strengths of a church like this? What would the weaknesses be? How would a world that is far from God respond to this kind of church? Now contrast that with a church that allows for dignity for the poor and outcast, a church that actively cares for everyone.

25% of our homeless population suffers from mental illness. How do you think that might impact their ability to obtain stable housing?

Would you judge those incarcerated less harshly if you knew that 60% of young men who had been in foster care in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin had been convicted of a crime?

Might we see prostitutes differently if we knew 80% of those in prostitution were sexually assaulted as children?

Have you ever experienced these kinds of reality?

In what ways might God be commanding you to help others? At work, at home, in your neighborhood, in your small group, or among your family?

God helps those who help themselves is not true. God helps those who can't help themselves - people like you and me.

Application

Let's help others this Fall through our partnership with Whittier school.

And let's help 5 people be inviting them on September 7/8.

We can't help everyone but every one of us can help someone.

Pray