

## Improving the World – One Person and One Community at a Time An Action Plan & Summary of the Holy Moment Series

The defining statement of my civic club says that we are a “global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time.” The statement recognizes that the organization has a big task but what we do helps one person and one community at a time. Our task as Christians is even bigger, but the principle of addressing it one person and one community at a time is right on.

This week’s devotion ties together in a summary the previous three devotions from the Holy Moment series. I think it is important to see the big picture, starting with us, but also showing how many of us working together can make a big impact. Then, it is time for action.

**What is a Holy Moment?** “A Holy Moment is a moment when you are being the person God created you to be, and you are doing what you believe God is calling you to do in that moment.” (Matthew Kelly)

**Our Role:** Our initial role is for one-on-one acts of kindness toward others, even toward people we don’t even know. It sounds simple, and it is. A simple act of kindness can motivate a grateful person who receives a good deed to do something for someone else. It is human nature to want to return the favor. For example, I make it a point to hold open a door for a person behind me. After thanking me they invariably hold open the next door for me. I don’t consider holding a door for a person to be a significant act of kindness but it does show how people recognize a good deed done for them, and then want to do something for the next person. In its purest form you have nothing to gain by a gesture of kindness. Christian author Max Lucado suggests we “daily do a deed for which you cannot be repaid. “ A result of kind gestures is that people will wonder what could have possibly motivated you to do this. Our motivation is not to glorify us as a good person but to glorify God.

**What we hope happens:** Our goal is to let God’s light shine through us: *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).* I can’t emphasize it enough to glorify the Father. It is not about us. It is about God working through us. We love others because God first loved us. The familiar children’s Christian song, *They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love* is a great example of people recognizing our faith because of our actions. It is one thing to tell someone you love them, but far more impactful if you show them. People will begin to realize that being a Christian makes a difference in your life. Let your faith be one that is thriving.

Remember the story about Jesus and the fig tree (in Mark 11:12-14). The fig tree had lots of leaves but no fruit. The bible passage says that it was “not the season for the tree to bear fruit.” Today is the season for us to bear the fruit of our faith.

Not enough time in your busy schedule? Take a morning, a day or week off from work and dedicate it to doing Holy Moments for others.

**Multipling Our Witness:** What if all the members of an entire church did good deeds for others in their community? Would that be impactful? That church would become known as a caring church whose members live out their faith every day. People would be inspired to want to be part of that church.

**Now, take it a step further.** What if every church in a community made a concerted effort for its members to help people in need? The reputation of that community would be so positive that the community would be known as a caring community. People would want to live there and they would want to join in on the culture of kindness.

Even more important, the Christian faith would take on a new significance. The church wouldn’t be viewed as a place where people go on a Sunday morning – like a country club. The Christian faith would be alive because of its relevance in making the world a better place.

**Is this really possible?** It sounds like a fairy tale that is impossible to achieve in today’s world. Our culture is beginning to separate itself from religion. A country founded on “freedom of religion” is hurtling towards being a country with “freedom from religion.” The Christian faith is under attack by those who resist the faith. They have become conditioned to resist any mention of God in public. There are a small number of people who are speaking up against anything to do with God and they are leading us towards being an anti-religious society. For example: recently, the school board in our county received a letter

from an organization that objects to prayer at the beginning of public meetings. The organization is known to push for separation of church and state. Without any discussion the spoken invocation was replaced by a time of silence at the very next meeting. Talk about an “easy button.” It was just that easy to push God aside and take another step to alter the culture of our community. People’s defenses go up when they think someone is going to talk about Jesus. The people who most complain about the Bible being irrelevant probably have never read it. They are bolder in their objection than evangelists preaching on the street corner.

**The Big Picture:** So, how do we succeed in keeping faith as an important element in our community? The book, The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity (by Matthew Kelly) suggests that we do it in a way that no one would object to. Even anti-Christians don’t object to receiving acts of kindness. It is not evangelizing and we don’t do it with the intent of preaching. We are just living our faith. But, as a person does good deeds others begin to take notice. They begin to wonder why someone would go out of their way to help someone else. You may get asked why you do good deeds, which provides an opportunity to plant a seed that you are motivated by a loving God and you want to glorify Him. The Holy Spirit does the heavy lifting. We just set the stage for people to realize that Christianity is showing God’s love through us.

**We can do this!** It is not an impossible task. Part III of the devotional series reminds us of the Roman culture Jesus faced when Romans oppressed all but the elite class. Jesus’ message of love and acceptance of others was widely welcomed even though He and His disciples operated at great danger to themselves. A small number of people made a difference in the world. Even though we are facing opposition today we have an army of fellow believers that just need to be energized and pointed in the same direction. Dr. Martin Luther King said, “The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people.” We need to stop being complacent as others beat down Christianity while we privately worship at church, but remain silent out in the community. No one needs to be silent about what faith means to them. Choosing to be a person of faith is a right for each of us. Holy Moments provide others with a visual of what it is like to be a Christian. When others see the joy we have in loving others they may be open to the Holy Spirit guiding them toward a faith of their own. Uniting as a faith community to do Holy Moments will make an unmistakable impact on the community.

A simple action plan to demonstrate our faith is as follows:

**Step #1: Pray.** Go to God in prayer. Ask Him to place in your mind ways you can help people and place in your path people to serve. Pray that your service to others will be all about glorifying God and not glorifying yourself.

**Step #2: Be Open to God’s direction on what He wants you to do.** Listen to God as He speaks to your heart.

**Step #3: Do something to help someone else.** Perhaps choose something that there is no way someone can repay you. Part II of this devotional series gives many suggestions. The result is that it may be the catalyst for a chain reaction of people who have been helped choosing to do something for someone else. When that happens you will have been a catalyst in the Christian movement.

**Step #4: Encourage other Christian friends to do Holy Moments for people in their life.** Here is when we multiply our efforts by encouraging others to do the same. Encourage your circle of friends, family and fellow church members.

**Step #5: Ask your church to consider a Sunday School lesson or effort to develop an emphasis on doing Holy Moments for others.** A free Sunday School lesson is available by emailing: [bruceboyer@triad.rr.com](mailto:bruceboyer@triad.rr.com). The lesson is consistent with the Holy Moment information from the four lessons in this series and is based on principles from the book, The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity, by Matthew Kelly.

**Step #6: Churches working together can open the eyes of the community to what being people of faith is all about.** Our lives can be changed by doing good deeds (Holy Moments) for others. Our community can be changed if enough people make it a goal to live their faith to serve God by serving others. We can improve the world one person and one community at a time.