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Ministering Matters That Make Me Mad!

It amazes me that Jesus did not get mad at the Rich Young Ruler when he rejected Jesus' wonderful offer! (Mark 10:17-25) I know I need God's help with my anger, but here are the reasons I would have been mad if I were Jesus:

1. The offer ("eternal life" Mark 10:17) required so much suffering for Jesus.
2. Something about this man led Mark to pen "Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him" (Mark 10:21). I would have been emotionally attached to the offer.
3. The man displayed the ability to live a faithful life ("And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth" (Mark 10:20).
4. God had blessed him with so much in this life ("for he had great possessions" (Mark 10:22).
5. The offer was so good! ("you will have treasure in heaven" Mark 10:21).

These are some of the reasons I would have been mad at the Rich Young Ruler when he walked away.

There are some Project Rescue ministering matters that make me mad:

1. Though it doesn't compare to the suffering of Jesus, those of us involved in helping addicts overcome, suffer disappointment & grief when our offer of help is rejected.
2. When a new member comes to the program, we are immediately invested in him, work with him and pray for him. Being emotionally attached, it makes me mad when he walks away.
3. When a man has great abilities, but chooses to trade them to get high or drunk instead!
4. It makes me mad when an eldership sends funds to support a man in the program, but the man tramples upon the opportunity given to him and exchanges it for a drug or drink.
5. It also makes me mad when a man does very well in the program and displays spiritual growth, but then quits the program and swaps it for his drug of choice!

These are just a few of the ministering matters that make me mad. If you are trying to help an addict right now, I'm sure you would agree.



Of course, we all need to "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). After all, Jesus "humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8), knowing full well that many would reject it for the "the passing pleasures of sin" (Hebrews 11:25). It makes Jesus sad, but He doesn't get mad.



Our hearts certainly go out to all who have suffered loss from the recent hurricanes. It's a tragic situation that has affected the lives of so many people.

During all the destruction, it is heart-warming to see the loving care of neighbors and friends who are there for each other when times are tough.

We are blessed to live in a country that steps up to help through the ups and downs of life. In the midst of tragedy, we are able to see the good, and we continue to bless Him through the storm.

The recent eclipse along with the hurricanes have certainly reminded us of the power of our awesome God.

A hurricane also reminds us of the effects of a drug addict on his family and friends. I often compare addiction to a hurricane. The addict is in the eye where it is calm and everything seems normal. He is oblivious to the destruction going on all around him as his family and loved ones are blown away by the fierce winds surrounding the eye of the hurricane. He leaves a trail of destruction in his path and feelings of helplessness and loss.

As in an actual hurricane, we are depending on our friends and neighbors to help us fight this terrible tragedy – the loss of our sons and daughters to drugs and alcohol.

I have taken on the challenge of raising the funds required for us to maintain this huge project we have undertaken for the Lord. I am desperately searching for 100 congregations or individuals who are willing to commit \$100 a month to help us in this critical and timely task.

So I'm hitting the road and would love to speak to your congregation about Project Rescue.

If you are interested in sharing in this work, please contact me. I can be reached at:

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**Will you be one of our \$100 heroes?
Your prayers and help are so greatly appreciated.**