

FIRST RESPONDERS

TEXT: (Proverbs 24:11-12, NIV)

¹¹ Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. ¹² If you say, “But we knew nothing about this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?

INTRODUCTION

1. “Rescue the perishing; don’t hesitate to step in and help. If you say, ‘Hey, that’s none of my business,’ will that get you off the hook? Someone is watching you closely, you know—Someone not impressed with weak excuses” (Proverbs 24:11-12, MSG).
2. “Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh” (Jude 1:22-23, NIV).
3. “Go easy on those who hesitate in the faith. Go after those who take the wrong way. Be tender with sinners, but not soft on sin. The sin itself stinks to high heaven” (Jude 1:22-23, MSG).
4. “And have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy but with fear, loathing even the clothing spotted *and* polluted by their shameless immoral freedom” (Jude 1:22-23, AMP).
5. “Rescue those being led away to death” (Proverbs 24:11, NIV)
6. “Hold back those staggering toward slaughter” (Proverbs 24:11, NIV).
7. “/s not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?” (Isaiah 58:6, KJV).
8. “I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44, KJV).
9. "He who wins souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30, NIV).
10. "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16, KJV).

I. THOSE ENSNARED AND LED AWAY BY THE ENEMY

1. “Rescue those being led away to death” (Proverbs 24:11, NIV).
2. “Hold back those staggering toward slaughter” (Proverbs 24:11, NIV).
3. “Go after those who take the wrong way” (Jude 1:23, MSG).
4. “Snatch [them] from the fire and save them” (Jude 1:23, NIV).

A. The Golden Hour

1. “Wounds from a friend can be trusted” (Proverbs 27:6, NIV).
2. “How good is a timely word” (Proverbs 15:23, NIV)!

II. WHY GOD BECAME MAN

A. To rescue us from our enemy

1. “For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins” (Colossians 1:13-14, NLT).

2. “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work” (I John 3:8, NIV).

B. To release us from the Fear of Death

1. “By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil’s hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death” (Hebrews 2:14-15, MSG).
2. “It is appointed unto men once to die” (Hebrews 9:27, KJV).
3. “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10, NIV).

III. BE TENDER WITH SINNERS, BUT NOT SOFT ON SIN

1. “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise” (Romans 1:14, KJV).
2. “My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them” (Romans 9:2-3, NLT).

A. Show Mercy, Mixed with Fear

1. “Be tender with sinners, but not soft on sin. The sin itself stinks to high heaven” (Jude 1:23, Message).

B. Develop the Mind of Christ

1. “So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view” (II Corinthians 5:16, NIV).
2. “But we have the mind of Christ” (I Corinthians 2:16, NIV).
3. “Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready” (I Corinthians 3:1-2, NIV).
3. “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field’” (Matthew 9:36-38, NIV).
4. “Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness” (Hebrews 5:1-2, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. “Rescue the perishing; don’t hesitate to step in and help. If you say, ‘Hey, that’s none of my business,’ will that get you off the hook? Someone is watching you closely, you know—Someone not impressed with weak excuses” (Proverbs 24:11-12, MSG).