

# Impact of One: Name

A month ago the world mourned the passing of a life.

That life had a name.

Very few people did not know this person's name.

In early December Dorothy and I flew to Toronto for her aunt's funeral.

On December 6 we flew home from Toronto.

That name was mentioned on our flight from Toronto to Calgary.

It was a name that demanded great respect.

It was the name of the person who said, **"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."**

**That person's name was Nelson Mandela (1918-2013; Former President of SA)**

Nelson Mandela was not content to live.

Nelson Mandela impacted his world.

There are many names that conjure up memories of impact.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882; Philosopher, Poet, Author)

**"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."**

Charles Dickens (1812-1870; Novelist)

**"The world is not a dream, but a reality, of which we are the chief part, and in which we must be up and doing something...Come out into the world about you, be it either wide or limited. Sympathize, not in thought only, but in action, with all about you. Make yourself known and felt for something that would be loved and missed, in twenty thousand little ways, if you were to die; then your life will be a happy one, believe me."**

Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519; Artist, Inventor, Scientist)

**"I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough, we must do."**

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962; US First Lady, Diplomat)

**"When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die."**

Apple Computer Inc.

**"While some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."**

Margaret Mead (1902-1978; Cultural Anthropologist)

**"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For indeed, that's all who ever have."**

And one other quote.

**"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."  
(Jesus, in John 14:12)**

Now, that's the way to impact our world.

The impact of one Name **(PLAY VIDEO SONG - HELLO MY NAME IS)**

Greater things than these! (READ Matthew 12:15-24)

In our Scripture Jesus heals a blind and dumb demoniac.

Talk about a life that is in ruins.

**To be blind and not able to talk and be possessed by evil, spells ineffective.**

Many would say that is a life not worth living.

Nothing could ever come from a life like that!

**But when that life falls into the hands of Jesus all the limits are stripped.**

The life emerges whole and effective.

Think of the impact that life will have on others.

Jesus tells us we will do even greater things through His name.

Our Scripture this morning shows us the impact of one Name.

Notice verse 21

**"And in His name will the Gentiles hope."**

Jesus' name has touched every nation.

His impact was not on the Jews alone.

He came to bring all people, tribes, languages to the Father.

**"at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."** (Philippians 2:10-11)

And He has done it not by coercion or force or power or dominance.

He has impacted this world with the amazing love of self-sacrifice.

He has impacted this world with the proclamation of justice.

He has impacted this world by caring for those already broken.

He has impacted this world by lifting those whose hope has faded.

He has impacted this world by encouraging those who face defeat.

**"He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick, till He brings justice to victory;"** (vs. 20)

**"to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God."** (John 1:12)

Matthew is quoting the words of the prophet Isaiah.

**"Behold my servant, whom I uphold, My chosen, in whom My soul delights ... He will not fail or be discouraged."** (Isaiah 42:1, 4)

Over the next few chapters we discover more about that name.

**"the Lord who created the heavens and stretched them out"** (Isaiah 42:5)

**"I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you."** (Isaiah 42:6)

**"I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other,"** (Isaiah 42:8)

**"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine."** (Isaiah 43:1)

**"Because you are precious in My eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, people in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you,"** (Isaiah 43:4-5)

**"'You are My witnesses,' says the Lord, 'and My servant whom I have chose, that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He.'" (Isaiah 43:10)**

**"I, I am the Lord, and besides Me there is no savior."** (Isaiah 43:11)

**"I am God, and also henceforth I am He; there is none who can deliver from My hand; I work and who can hinder it?"** (Isaiah 43:13)

**"Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel,"** (Isaiah 43:14)

**"I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."** (Isaiah 43:15)

**"Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and His Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, besides Me there is no god. Who is like Me? Let him proclaim it, let him declare and set it forth before Me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.'" (Isaiah 44:6-8)**

There is only one name by which we make an impact on our world.

It is by the Name of the One who impacted this world with catastrophic results.

The name of Jesus impacts your world.

More importantly, the name of Jesus impacts your life.

When you receive Him and believe in His name your life is transformed.

You become all that God created you to be.

You are no longer merely living.

You are an impact for God in this world.

But this world is so big.

Where could any of us start to make an impact?

We are not all Nelson Mandela's nor do we all work for Apple.

Who am I that my name should impact this world?

On my own it likely won't happen.

But we can be Jesus to someone.

In His name will our neighbours find hope.

By the name of Jesus your name makes an impact.

Let me pass on some suggestions of where and how you can start.

These are some suggestions made by Lisa Pennington.

She says there are some simple ways you can impact your neighbor.

You can impact them with a blessing.

These are some things you might try any time of the year.

**1. A personal visit:** Instead of calling, knock on the door and say hello. It can feel awkward, but people love it. Just say that you wanted to wish them a Merry Christmas in person.

**2. Baking a new recipe:** Get your kids to try a new recipe and take some of it over to a neighbor, "Here! We thought you might want to try what Johnny just made!" This is a good one for the older widow and widowers. They enjoy encouraging the kids.

**3. Yard work:** Most of my neighbors don't need work done in their yard- in fact they would probably like to come over and do something about ours! But if we stop by their house and notice leaves on the sidewalk or dirt that needs to be swept we can go back over later and take care of it.

**4. Notes:** Make cards and notes for neighbours each holiday season and leave them on the door. Who doesn't feel loved by a hand written note? You can add a favorite scripture or "we're praying for you" message into your note.

**5. Love their pets:** Most people are very attached to their pets. Take a cat toy or dog bone over to let them know we care about their pets too!

**6. Share a recipe:** If your neighbor is having family visit for the holidays, take them a few of your favorite recipes written on pretty note cards (even better if you have a sample for them to try). Recipe cards are another great place to add a Bible verse.

**7. Watch their house:** If they are headed out of town, offer to keep an eye on things while they are gone. Be sure you have their contact information.

**8. Take them a book:** If your neighbor has children or grandchildren that like to visit, take over a good book to add to their library.

**9. Let them know that you are praying for them:** I don't think anyone has ever been sued for praying for a neighbour.

**10. Check back later:** If they shared with you some struggle or problem they are having, it's really nice if you stop by a week or so later to check on how they are doing. Remembering details is a great way to show someone you care.

Some simple ways your name can make an impact.

Last week we were in the drive through at Tim Horton's.

We were in line behind someone we knew.

After we ordered and received our order the lady at the window simply said, "Merry Christmas from the person in the car ahead of you."

Guess what we did?

We told our family about that act of kindness.

**Just an act of kindness? - No, an imp-act of kindness.**

That person has a name, the impact of the person named ...

The question is, what name do you go by?

Jesus asks, " 'What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?' 'The one who treated him kindly,' the religion scholar responded. Jesus said, 'Go and do the same.'" (Luke 10:36-37 TM)

**Closing Song - Jesus Messiah**