

What Can I Do?

Like Job, sometimes we feel overwhelmed by bad news. It seems as if bad news hits our church family at the worst possible times. The list of sickness, death, those who have lost jobs, brothers or sisters falling away from Christ, or other bad news never ends. At times like these, the question that goes through most of our minds is “What can I do?” This question has different meanings for many of us but two particularly come to mind.

What can I do? The emphasis here is on the feeling of inadequacy to help. We might not have much money, or time, or even know the person. We might feel uncomfortable trying to help because of our own problems. When our attitude is like this, we tend to not do anything. We do not make the situation worse, but also do not help improve it by providing comfort, material support, love, or other assistance. In this case we are much like the church in Laodicea—lukewarm. And we know how Jesus felt about that (Revelation 3:16).

What can I do? The emphasis here is on the actions we can take to help a bad situation. We may not have a lot of money, time, and may not even know a particular person, but each of us can do something to show love for someone in need. We can send a card of encouragement, make a phone call, say a prayer, or even just provide company to a grieving or hurting brother or sister. We can be like the widow in Mark 12 and Luke 21, who gave her last two coins to the temple treasury. Jesus was much more pleased with her than with the rich people who gave many times more than the widow. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on” (Mark 12:42-43).

So, let us be the kind of church that asks, “*What* can I do?” to help those in material or spiritual need. We really can make a difference.

For the elders,
Tony Turner