

*Proverbs 3:27 "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do good."*

Most of us are willing to do good for those we deem worthy of our efforts. Especially, if they have been helpful to us in the past, we feel a special debt of gratitude. We are not only willing, we are anxious to reciprocate in kind. That is human nature to love those that love us, to help those who help us, to be kind to those who have been kind to us or those we love. Most people would consider such an attitude praiseworthy and representative of the best examples of brotherhood and sisterhood. However, those that cause us harm, injury, pain, and distress, or that harbor attitudes of malice, envy, jealousy and hatred are not deserving of our good will or our good deeds. Why should we waste our good on those who will not appreciate it or recognize it for what it is? After all, they have demonstrated no desire to resolve the breach between us nor have they indicated any interest in establishing a working relationship. Some don't like me and make no attempt to hide the fact. They have made it very plain that they want nothing to do with me in any shape form or fashion. I don't fit their mold of a person worthy of their time. Then there are others that have no reaction to me whatsoever, they don't even seem to know I exist. They look right through me as if I'm not even there. Whatever good I could do them, they would not even miss it if I withheld it, since they don't see me anyway. That does sound like a justifiable position to take doesn't it?

It is so easy to blame others for what we choose not to do even though we know what we should do as the children of God. We tell ourselves that it is useless to cast seeds in poor soil...that no seed will grow where the soil is not ready to receive it. There is certainly truth in that statement, since the principle comes from the bible itself. But what we have to remind ourselves of is that we are not equipped to judge the quality of the soil as it is now nor can we determine when or if the nature of the soil may change. Only God can discern the thoughts and intents of the heart (soil). The Word is alive and active, powerful and dynamic enough to penetrate the external defenses (hard, selfish attitudes) that surround the soul and spirit (will) of all men. We need to let the Lord do his work while we content ourselves to do ours. Since, we are all imperfect just as those we hesitate to reach out to are imperfect, let us relieve ourselves of the burden of determining who is worth of our best efforts. All men are, all women are. How many times do we just settle for a shallow encounter with people when we could seize the moment to leave the indelible mark of Christ by our disposition?