

Weekly Column
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Melvin University
and Me

Small things have a big impact

It is said to have happened to Sameera in Toronto a long time ago. Her parents, who visited her house, boarded a plane back home, and on the way, her mother died of a heart attack. Two days later, there was a funeral, and there were so many people she didn't know that she asked her father and brothers who were who. But there was an old lady sitting there who no one knew. So Sameera went to the person in her late 50s and asked her, saying hello.

"I'm the only child in this family, and I've known everyone else through my father and brothers, and everyone says they don't know about you, do you know my mother?"

The lady thought for a moment and answered. 'I'm sorry to say this, but I didn't know your mother.' Then Sameera talk to her, "I don't understand. Then why are you here?"

"Maybe it's going to be a long story," she said slowly. "About five years ago, I had a very difficult time. I was so exhausted that I decided to kill myself. And that day, I got on the bus, and a woman sitting right next to me was reading a book, absorbed in it. When I got halfway to my destination, she put the book on her lap and talked to me. 'I think you want to talk to someone?'"

"So while I was on the bus, I had a lot of confidence in her and talked to her. By the way, the darkness disappeared, and there seemed to be bright light in my mind. And when I got home, I decided not to kill myself."

"We were so into talking that day that we couldn't even ask our names. But I saw her picture in the newspaper with the news that she passed away two days ago. I didn't know it was your mother. I didn't even know her name. But she saved my life five years ago through a 20-minute conversation on the bus. I found out that he had passed away. So I came here to thank her family."

There's another example

A man was walking on a Mexican beach at sunset. As he walked, he saw far away that a man kept bending over and picking something up and throwing it into the water. He continued to do so, so as he approached, he noticed that the man was throwing a starfish washed ashore into the water one at a time. This guy feels a little weird, and he approaches him and says, "What are you doing?" asked curiously.

"Yes, I'm throwing these starfish back into the sea." "It's low tide and all the starfish are washed ashore. If we don't send it back to sea, they'll die from lack of oxygen."

"Yes, I understand, but there seem to be thousands of starfish on this beach, and it seems impossible to send them all back to sea. Aren't you overdoing it?"

Then he smiled, bent down again and picked up another starfish, and as he threw it back into the sea, he replied, "That starfish I'm sending again will live anyway."

As shown in the above two examples, making a difference! is a precious thing.

It is true that Sameera's mother did something important as she rode the usual bus. She must have felt compelled to do something when she saw the needs of others. She may be absorbed in her work while reading books or reading hard. But she had the idea of "I should do something."

Of course, everything may not be this meaningful thing. But on the other hand, it can be meaningful and valuable.

In fact, big changes happen through groups of many people. But most of it starts [through one person]. There is no denying that it begins with the thought, decision, and responsibility of one person, like Sameera's mother, and a man on the coast of Mexico.

The key is who will do this? The simple answer is that "the first person to see" does. The person who sees, feels, and becomes responsible does. Who knows if treating others well, even if it is trivial, will have great consequences!