

Ethical Leadership

Written Assignment #1

“The Good Samaritan”

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Utilitarian ethics focuses on the consequences of one's actions versus the actual act. I

view it as an incentive to do the right thing because of the ripple effect it can have on a

someone's personal life. With that said, the same energy, whether positive or negative given out

would be afforded to them in the same manner. Deontological ethics is more about

responsibilities or guidelines which provide principles or rules to live by, which can also be

viewed as a how to guide to navigate through life. An example of this is the ten commandments,

which is a blueprint of expectations how someone should live and how to treat other people.

Virtue ethics is when someone is guided by their internal instincts and impulses which appeals

to their conscience. It is like the voice in someone's head which ultimately drive their decisions

and influences their actions which impacts how they are perceived and received by others.

There are similarities between Utilitarian and Deontological ethics as they both appeal to

the premise that happiness is the end result or reward for doing the right thing. There is little if

any similarities between Utilitarian and Virtue ethics because Virtue ethics is dominated by a

person's character or moral beliefs and Utilitarianism is centered around consequences of a

person actions/decisions. What distinguishes them from each another is Virtue ethics

concentrates on the benefits to their self and others, Deontology focuses on the responsibility.

to oneself and others, while Utilitarian highlight the repercussions of one's actions.

. As it relates to the Good Samaritan, I believe the ethical approach that is most closely

aligned to the Good Samaritan is Deontological. This is because the Samaritan's actions are

those which demonstrate responsibilities or actions we should take when it comes to others.

They are unspoken rules that should guide our actions even if we do not know the person. It

puts me in the mind frame of what should be done and how we should treat people. As noted in

the text, "But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he

had compassion." (Kramer, J, 1964) This stood out to me, because if we simply treat people

with compassion, then the actions of the Good Samaritan would be followed by everyone

because of this common characteristic. I also, want to mention what differentiates the Good

Samaritan from the priest who walked on the other side of the road and did not provide aid to

the beaten man. The Samaritan's conscious to do the right thing, which applies to his Virtue

ethics was present in the "Good Samaritan," but not the most dominant.

For the most part, today people determine their limits to help other people based on

the level of harm they may put themselves in if they decide to help a person in need. In my

opinion, we should just help people as we would like to be helped or treated if the roles were

reversed. If a woman in my family was in need of assistance, I would hope someone would help

them because it could be their mother, sister or wife and if they are not there, then they would

hope someone would intervene and help them. It' becomes complicated when helping

someone creates a life-or-death situation for the person helping then in that case, I find it hard

to expect someone to get involved in that situation. Anything less than serious harm coming to

the person helping, I would expect everyone to help someone in need.

References

- Kramer, J. (1964). *The good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37 for children*. St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House