

The Good Samaritan

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Bus 434: Ethical Leadership

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In the textbook *Law and Ethics in the Business Environment*, Utilitarianism is explained as “the right way to behave in a given situation is to choose the alternative that is likely to produce the greatest overall good”. My understanding of utilitarianism is serving a purpose for the good of the majority then you should do it. Always thinking about doing the right thing that is beneficial for all. Utilitarianism is always making us ask, what are the harms and benefits of doing something and who will be affected by the decision. At the end make us analyzed if it's going to be worth it or not. “Utilitarianism allows individual agents to have moral preferences and to act in the interest of others when action toward others generates a net utility gain for the individual. However, in welfare economics the original Benthamite utilitarian principle of comparing individual utility (the greatest happiness for the greatest number) is rejected” (Staveren, P., 1).

Deontology is explained as “making ethical choices is the understanding that moral action should be guided by certain overriding rights and duties” For example, respect for life, fairness, telling the truth, and keeping promises, no matter what the consequences” (Halbert & Ingulli, P., 20). In other words do what's right always no matter the consequences, if it's wrong or feels wrong do not attempt to do it or just don't do at all. “The deontological approach to ethics regards morality as a duty, or a moral rule that ought to be followed. Deontological ethics is about following universal norms that prescribe what people ought to do, how they should behave, and what is right or wrong. It is a morality of principles, not of consequences” (Staveren, P., 2). Virtue Ethics “derives from Aristotle, who argue that people develop their moral abilities, called virtues, through training, by being repeatedly exposed to demonstrations of decent behavior withing families and communities” (Halbert & Ingulli, P., 24). In other words, the more

good things you do, the better person you become. If get used to always doing the right thing the better person you become with time.

Although these three social values talk about doing the right thing, treating everyone with the same respect you expect to be treated, always looking for the good of the majority and having the duty and or responsibility to always do the right things no matter the consequences, the one I believe in the most and I think is aligned with the Good Samaritan act, is the Virtue of Ethics, because the more good you do, the more people you help, the better person you become. The good Samaritan says to treat everyone with care and love as you would to be treated. I certainly believe that if you get used always doing the right thing, loving, respecting, caring for everyone around you it becomes habit and that is a great way to please God and leave a better life. We as human beings make mistakes every day, but God gives us the opportunity to amend them and choose right over wrong. We all grew up having God in our hearts and always trying to do the right things is a sign of that.

How do we determine the limits of our responsibilities to strangers?

We are all responsible of our own actions, and no one else besides ourselves should be held accountable for the choices we make. No other individual should be responsible for the decisions that we take. There are circumstances where there are other people involved in our decision making, but at the end, we all have free will to do what is best for us. If for instance, we are in a situation where help is need it from us by a strange person, we have the free will to help or look for help, it's a matter of always doing the right thing no matter who or what it is, and if after doing the best you could, things don't turn the way you hoped them too, at least you did something about it, and God always sees the good intentions of your heart, and that matters.

There is a saying in Spanish, Haz el bien sin mirar a quien which translates to Do Good without looking at who, my grandmother always told me this quote and I think is perfect for this week's assignment, because no matter who as a Christian or just even as a person you always have to do the right thing.

References

- Beyond Utilitarianism and Deontology: Ethics in Economics. By: Van Staveren, Irene, Review of Political Economy, 095328259, Jan2007, Vol. 19, Issue 1
- Halbert, T., & Ingulli, E. (2017). *Law and ethics in the business environment*. Mindtap Course List.