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“The Good Samaritan”

BUS 434: Ethical Leadership

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The comparisons of the Utilitarian, Deontological, and Virtue Ethics approach of ethics are expressed ways in which we should live our lives for the good and for what is right. Through these theories of ethics, the common goal, I believe, is to be mindful of how our decisions could impact others, good or bad, even if it is not intentional, and

The contrasts between the Utilitarian, Deontological, and Virtue Ethics approaches of ethics are the ideas considered to do what is good and what is right. According to Terry Halbert, J.D. and Elaine Ingulli, J.D., of **Law and Ethics In The Business Environment**, the Utilitarian analysis is the “right way to behave in a given situation is to choose the alternative that is likely to produce the greatest overall good”. The Deontological approach, given by the **Ethics Centre**, based out of Sydney, Australia, stems from the Greek word “DEON” which means “Duty” which means “whether actions are good or bad or right and wrong based on whether one is consistent with moral duties”. Deontological is marked by respect for life, fairness, telling the truth, and keeping promises no matter what. Acting with dignity, never treating others as a tool. Virtue Ethics which is derived from Aristotle believes we develop our moral abilities, called virtues, through training, and constantly being exposed to decent behavior expressed by our families and communities. Our virtues shape our character especially when the stakes are high.

In the Parable of the Good Samaritan from the reading of Luke 10:25-37, Jesus told the story of a man, going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, who was assaulted, robbed, and left for dead. A priest and a Levite came down the same road, saw this man, and passed him by. Then there was a Samaritan who traveled the same road, saw the man, took pity upon him, and gave him a helping hand. The Samaritan bandaged his wounds, loaded him on his donkey, brought him to the nearest inn, and took care of him. The following day the Samaritan paid the innkeeper

and advised him to care for the man and when he returned will reimburse him for his care. I believe this parable relates to the ethical approach of Deontology, where the good samaritan felt empathy for the wounded man and felt obligated to help him and get him to a safe place. The good Samaritan went above and beyond the call of duty. In Luke 10:36-37, I find it amazing how Jesus asked the expert in the Law, out of the three men which did he think was a neighbor to the man, and the expert in the Law believed it to be the one who had mercy. And then Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise". I mean this is coming from the instruction of God.

Our determination of how we help strangers, I believe, is set around the seriousness of the situation the stranger is in and whether my life will be in danger as well. You know there is a familiar saying that relates to our impulse to want to jump right into the action, and that is "never run into a burning building". Sometimes we can cause more harm than good for that person.