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Course: Ethical Leadership BUS434

Assignment #1: The Good Samaritan Parable & The Comparison and Contrast of the Utilitarian, Deontological, and Virtue Ethics approaches of ethics.

## **The Good Samaritan parable**

The good Samaritan parable displays morality and ethics. There is no law by man to say help your neighbor, or you will be killed or sent to prison or even a fine for not supporting your neighbor. The ten commandments are a written law by God for man to follow and live within our daily lives. Even those who know the ten commandments can choose to break or not follow the commandments as they wish to do so, without getting punished by having to do prison time, pay a fine, or any other means of direct punishment for not doing so; the priest knew there was no real earthly penalty for passing the Jewish man stranded on the road, the Levite who worked in a religious temple knew this also, no penalty for passing your neighbor left on the roadside. Even though they both knew of the ten commandments and the priest had such high order in the eyes of God, they could both ask for forgiveness, and their act was inhumane. The idea of having morals and good ethical values is what Jesus describes in the good Samaritan parable. Practicing your morals beliefs and good ethical values is what God wants us to always do, whether an audience is present or not, you should always practice your beliefs and values.

## **Compare and contrast the Utilitarian, Deontological, and Virtue Ethics approaches of ethics.**

The teaching by Kant about the deontological approach is fundamental to us as those are the most important way to follow your morals and ethical values. The video demonstrates the beginning of deontology as a duty. The duty here is to honor all obligations you commit to at all costs. Even when you make the wrong decision, like agreeing to do a project with someone, you find it very unethical. Kant states that you should still follow through with the promises you make. Kant's philosophy teaches us to practice good moral and ethical judgment before deciding. He also teaches us to take our time when making these decisions. The failure to not take our time

to make good decisions, we should honor the consequences.

Compared to Kant's philosophy, virtue ethics highlights the need to learn how to be the best, ethically correct person in a situation or circumstance. The teaching of virtue ethics emphasizes giving a response to make the person you are responding to feel good about themselves or whether you want to react adversely to a situation or a circumstance.

The utilitarian approach highlights the need to save many by harming some in medical practice. An example of which would be the Tuskegee study. Many African American males were hurt while scientists studied the long-term approach of having untreated syphilis, even though we know that the long-term results of untreated syphilis can cause early dementia. The actual event that yielded this finding was unethical and morally wrong (Freimuth et al., 2001).

To sum up. All three of these approaches have their flaws. I am one hundred percent not supporting Utilitarian on any level. Its focus is on the greater good for those who see it as a helpful tool (Mandal et al., 2016). As it relates to virtue ethics, it can take you away from being your true self. A person's morals and ethics should always be aligned with the truth, not based on how others are feeling or what they are going through. Lastly, Kant's teaching is more practical. I say so because it helps us to think twice before we agree to any duty, whether it be a job, research, or marriage. Spend time doing your research/homework on any area before deciding on a project or a commitment.

## References

- Freimuth, V. S., Quinn, S. C., Thomas, S. B., Cole, G., Zook, E., & Duncan, T. (2001). African Americans' views on research and the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. *Social Science & Medicine*, 52(5), 797-808. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0277-9536\(00\)00178-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0277-9536(00)00178-7)
- Mandal, J., Ponnambath, D. K., & Parija, S. C. (2016). Utilitarian and deontological ethics in medicine. *Tropical Parasitology*, 6(1), 5. <https://doi.org/10.4103/2229-5070.175024>