

How Many Days 'Til Rescue

This is just another version of a values problem that has been used many times. But, I give you permission to use this one and I'd like to complicate it a bit more than the norm... and give you the only valid Jesus-style answer.

You are on an ocean liner that has been attacked by terrorists. In the resulting fires and explosions it appears that all but eleven on board have been killed. For the eleven surviving passengers there is only one life-raft intact and it has a maximum capacity of six.

You are safely on the life-raft and there is only one life jacket in it. The other ten people are desperately clinging to the sides of the life-raft, but as they do you all recognize that the weight of the ten causes the waves to slosh into the boat and the situation isn't going to be remedied by everyone hanging on.

A few minutes pass and you realize that no one is going to be able to hang on for all that long anyway. The water is cold and things are getting desperate.

The dilemma becomes very clear very quickly. It appears that only six are going to survive if any are going to survive.

No one has any idea of how long it will be until rescue. It certainly will be long, long hours and is more likely going to be days. It appears that five must take their chances (which at this time seem very, very slim.) Only one person volunteers to let go of the life-raft and that's a 70-year old preacher.

What is your solution to this dilemma? Who will be saved?

A 42- year old biochemist.

An accountant.

A 17-year old runaway boy.

The runaway boy's 16-year old girlfriend who is six months pregnant.

An intelligent actress.

A pro-basketball player.

A 9-year old orphan with polio.

A 56-year old state senator.

A 27-year old electrician.

The 70-year old minister.

Yourself.

BEFORE YOU RESOLVE THIS, LET ME COMPLICATE IT...

The biochemist is working on a cure for liver cancer.

The state senator heads a committee to root out government corruption.

The 27-year old electrician has four kids.

The biochemist passionately cares about liver cancer because he has it.

Some think the minister should be saved because the world needs people like him.

The 27-year old electrician abandoned his family four years ago.

The intelligent actress donates large sums to domestic violence shelters.

The accountant... You get the point.

CLOSEOUT THOUGHTS: I've also used this with many, many groups and have never yet had someone actually give the Jesus-answer. It appears our humanity always immediately drives us to try to figure out how to evaluate the "value" of one life over another.

I'm convinced that Jesus would never have done that and that there's only one answer that is Kingdom acceptable...

You look around to see who is struggling the most and you get the life jacket on them. Then you jump into the water to find any floating material that's available to try to save everyone or die trying.

I'm really believe that Jesus would say there's no other answer.