

BROTHER'S KEEPER

Man – the man who was attacked

Tishe – older one of the children who helped Man

Tobi – younger one of the children who helped Man

Mr. and Mrs. Ojo – Tishe and Tobi's parents

Rich Man – saw injured man, but didn't help

Passerby – saw injured man, but didn't help

Nurse – saw injured man, but didn't help

Feranmi – the taxi driver

Damilola – Feranmi's friend

Doctor

Bystanders – 3 to 7 people

ACT 1

It's a relatively empty street. A man is half lying down, half seated. He is wounded.

Man: Somebody should please help me. I need help.

Rich man: *He comes in slowly showing off his wealth. He sees the man, and pauses.*

I'm sorry oh.

He then begins to walk away.

I wish I could help this man, but I can't afford to get my clothes dirty. This outfit cost me a lot of money. If I help him, I'm not sure my clothes will ever remain the same again.

He leaves.

Passerby: *He comes in talking on the phone and walking. He sees the man on the street and stops.*

Seun, I'll call you back. There's something I need to do now.

He ends the call and then sets his phone on camera. He takes a couple of pictures from a distance and then he moves closer to the man.

Man: Please help me. I'm hurt.

Passerby: I'm sorry I can't help you. I don't know you. Someone else will come and help you. You will be fine.

As he leaves he calls Seun on the phone.

Seun, you won't believe why I had to cut our conversation...

Nurse: *She rushes in, sees, the man, and then stops suddenly. The man is lying down at this time.*

Ah, this poor man needs help. I should help him, but who will pay my salary. My boss said that if I am late one more time she will deduct money from my salary.

She starts to move away and then continue talking.

It's not my fault that I'm usually late. It's not always easy getting transport (*pause*) and then it takes me a while to put on my make-up. They can't expect me to do a sloppy job with my make-up. You never know who you may meet when you're on duty. *She rushes off.*

Tishe *Two siblings come in. They are talking and laughing. Tishe sees the man and he stops.*

Tobi, that man looks like he's injured.

Tobi You're right. But are you sure it's not a trap? Some people could be around waiting to attack whoever goes to try to help him.

Tishe That's true, but I sense that this man needs our help.

Tobi Okay. Let's move closer to him.
The siblings walk over to the man. He makes no movement as they approach him.

Tishe Do you need our help?

Man *At the sound of Tishe's voice the man lifts his head a little and then speaks weakly*
I need help. I'm very weak.
As the siblings walk towards the man a few people gather round but they don't move near.

Tishe This man needs urgent help. We need to get him to the hospital.
He looks at the crowd.
Can anyone help him?
There is silence for a moment, then someone in the crowd talks.

Damilola Bro Feranmi can help. He has a cab.

Feranmi Me ke. You want to get my car seats dirty. No way.
He starts to walk away.

Tishe Please sir, help the man. We'll pay you.

Feranmi *He stops and turns around.*
How much will you pay me? How much money do you have?

Tishe How much do you want to take?

Feranmi *He smiles.*
Because it's you, I'll take just ₦2,000.

Damilola Haba. Bro Feranmi. Be considerate.

Feranmi *Pauses.* Okay ₦1,000. Not a kobo less and I will collect it before we go.

Tobi Where are we going to get that kind of money from? We have just ₦200 on us.

Damilola I'm sorry, I don't have much. Here is ₦200. Add it to the one you have.

Tishe Thank you, sir.
Two or three members of the crowd contribute and the money is complete. Feranmi leaves Damilola helps Tishe to carry the man to the car and Tobi follows closely behind.

ACT II

The Ojo family are on their way to the hospital. The man is at the hospital. He is about to be discharged. He is sitting down. The doctor is with him. Tishe and Tobi enter with their parents. The couple walk behind their children and they do as if they are talking to each other until the children start talking. They then sometimes stand, talking, sometimes walk as if thinking until they get to the hospital. They are low income earners.

Tishe The doctor said that the man has recovered and wants to see us.

Tobi I am so happy that we were able to save his life.

Tishe Same here. Remember when we got to the hospital and they said that although they were going to start attending to him that they would need a deposit?

Tobi I remember. Thank God for the money we had been saving up. *(He looks sad for a moment.)*
We had planned to use it to register for camp. Now we have to start saving all over again.

Tishe True. But look at it this way. God used the money and us to save a man's life. Isn't that more important than the camp we wanted to go for? God who has provided for us in the past will provide for us again. We still have some time to try to raise the money.

Tobi That's true. *(He smiles.)* We're at the hospital. I'm glad the man is leaving there today.

Mr. Ojo Good afternoon, Doctor. Good afternoon, sir.
Mr. Ojo says greeting the doctor and the man as they enter the hospital.
My name is Mr. Remi Ojo. This is my wife, Mrs. Deborah Ojo.

Mrs. Ojo Good afternoon, Doctor. Good afternoon, sir.

Mr. Ojo And these are my two children, Tishe and Tobi. The two of them prostrate.

Doctor The Ojo family you are welcome.

Man I am grateful for all that you have done for me. I learnt that some money was spent before I regained consciousness and my relatives took over. How much did you spend? I would like to pay you back.

Mrs. Ojo Thank you, sir.

Mr. Ojo Don't worry, sir. We were glad to help.

Man No, I insist. If I got the story right, it was these two young men that actually saved my life. How did you do it?

Tishe Well a few people contributed to pay the taxi driver who brought you, but we paid for the deposit out of our own money.

Man Oh. How did you do it? That was not a small amount of money.

Tobi *He looks at Tishe and then talks.*
Well, we were saving it up so that we could go for the camp in August. Our parents said they couldn't afford it. There are so many things that they need to pay for. We had almost completed the money.
He looks sad for a moment and then brightens up.
But I am glad we were able to use it for a worthy cause.

Man You saved my life.
He looks thoughtful for a moment. He brings out his chequebook and writes two cheques. He puts them in an envelope and give is to Mr. Ojo.
Take. One check is towards the camp your children want to attend. They are children. I wish them well. The second one is to help cover some of the needs you may have. You and your wife have indeed trained your children well.

The whole Ojo family prostrates or kneels down.
Thank you, sir. God bless you. *Exeunt*