Being a good Samaritan is, of course, good. But beware if you are trying to be helpful in Lakeland, Florida where a man who tried to help a two-year-old girl find her parents in a park was mistaken as a kidnapper and beaten up by the father and a few others.

The father insisted that he did nothing wrong even if the police confirmed that the man was just trying to help.

A police officer described what happened: “They grabbed that child and took him (the good Samaritan) from behind and knocked him to the ground and started kicking and hitting him.” A further police statement stated: “this incident truly involved a good Samaritan trying to assist a lost child finding their parents.”

Despite this, townspeople posted picture of the man online and called him a sex predator. The man was so frightened that he fled the town. If the good Samaritan has to wrap up the awful experience with a Chinese expression, he would probably say: “好人難做” (hao3 ren2 nan2 zuo4).

“好人” (hao3 ren2) means “a nice guy,” “a fine person,” “a good fellow,” “難” (nan2) “difficult,” “hard” and “做” (zuo4) “to do,” “to become.” Literally, “好人難做” (hao3 ren2 nan2 zuo4) is “it is hard to be a nice guy.”

The expression means “difficult to please everybody,” “difficult to be a good person,” “one always gets blame from somebody no matter how fair and just he tries to be.”

To an ungrateful person, the only thing you can say is “好人難做” (hao3 ren2 nan2 zuo4).

Terms containing the character “難” (nan2) include:

- 難題 (nan2 ti2) – a difficult problem; a tough question
- 難關 (nan2 guan1) – a crisis; a difficult that is hard to overcome
- 難免 (nan2 mian3) – hard to avoid; unavoidable
- 難忘 (nan2 wang4) – unforgettable; memorable