

The Good Samaritan

Introduction

- If you have your Bibles...
- Many churches exist here in America that never go beyond the basics... Keep it shallow, keep it simple, appeal to the lowest common denominator, Don't talk about good deeds... don't talk about deep things... don't confuse people with theology. We don't want to be legalistic, don't want to talk about how we ought to live...
 - We desire as a church to be a bit different. Our heart as a church is to help christians grow in both faith and righteous living.
 - Salvation is important, yes, but sanctification is also important. Do not fall into the lie that following Jesus has nothing to do with your everyday life, decisions, and actions. Ephesians 2:10 - We were created for good works.
- This morning we see Jesus Himself tell us how a believer ought to live.
- **Our text is the whole story of the Samaritan; but because it is pretty long, for our memories' sake, our focus is really in the 37th verse. "You go and do likewise"**
- Jesus is telling us to DO SOMETHING
 - **Do vs Done**
 - Far too often we fail to properly understand our motivations for obedience to Jesus.
 - At the end of the day our human hearts are not able to accomplish God's greatest commandment.
 - We need Jesus.
 - **And all our doing is an outflowing of what has already been done. "I have done, now you go do."**

Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” 27 And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” 28 And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to

the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Context/Story

Tell the story

- Jesus set his face... Jesus just finished his journey through Samaria where He was rejected. Jesus sent out the 72, The harvest is plentiful, They returned rejoicing, Jesus surrounded by a crowd of jews, and a lawyer stands up -
 - His goal is to stump Jesus here. He is not really looking for an answer
 - Can God create a rock so big, he cannot lift it?
 - Can God create a square circle?
 - Can God slam a revolving door?
- if the question was "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" then the answer was simple: keep the law of God, and keep it perfectly.
 - Jesus seems mildly sarcastic here. The lawyer's job was to know and keep the law.
 - Yet knowing the law and keeping the law are drastically different things.
- The road from jerusalem to jericho - was notorious for its danger and difficulty, and was known as the "Way of Blood"
- In Jewish culture, contact with a dead body was understood to be defiling. Priests were particularly enjoined to avoid uncleanness. And while this man was still alive, he could have been perceived as dead from a distance. They passed on the other side of the road for a reason.
- Samaritans and Jews
 - Hated each other
 - Jews had destroyed the samaritan temple on mount Gerizim in 128bc
 - The Jewish historian Josephus tells us that occasionally Samaritans killed Jews coming down the Samaritan Road on the way to Passover
 - Once during a Jewish feast, Samaritans sneaked into the Temple in Jerusalem in the dead of night and scattered human bones all around the Temple Mount.
 - It's important to remember that for a Jew, human bones are the ultimate desecration. Human bones render a person or place unclean for seven days. So the Samaritans ruined the feast for all of Jerusalem.'
- So for a story told by Jesus

Love God

1. Explain
 - a. God's Greatest Commandment is centered around love.
 - i. Our Culture's perception of Love - Falling
 1. Elvis "I can't help falling in love with you."
 2. Love pizza, Love movies
 3. The problem with, "I love you because..." statements.
 - ii. God's perception of Love - Covenant Commitment

1. Love is a commitment, that leads to action, that leads to feelings of attachment
 - a. 1st John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.
 2. This is how we love the unlovable
 - a. How many of you know someone who is really hard to love? (annoying, self-centered, conceited, know-it-all, mean)
 - b. Our love for others is based upon God's love for us!
 - b. Heart
 - i. Psalm 42:1 - As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.
 1. Desire Him
 - a. Do you do this? Do you thirst for God, like a deer thirsts for water?
 - b. What happens if you don't get water for a week? What happens if you don't get God, or His word for a week?
 - c. Soul
 - i. Psalm 117 - Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! 2 For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!
 1. Worship Him
 - a. I was having a conversation about the name of our church last week with a new couple... The reason for our name (rejoice, celebrate, party, the king is alive! We celebrate every week!)
 - d. Mind
 - i. 1st John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
 1. Put Him First
 2. Learn about God!
 - a. Brandon in Highschool - (do not be content with a C in your study of God!)
 - e. Strength
 - i. 1st John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
 1. Obey Him
 2. Endurance in the lord! What happens to your love for Jesus when life is difficult? Do you question Him? Get mad at Him? Or do you Love Him with all your strength?
2. Apply
- a. This is hard! How do we do this? Let's say we have failed to love God well for our entire lives... How can we get better? How do we love God more?

- i. Isaiah 40:9 - Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"
- ii. In seeing God for who He is, Beholding Him, learning about Him, understanding Him more, will cause you to cherish and love Him more.
- b. Let us help you.
 - i. Discipleship at Celebration Church (Groups, D1 June 21st)

Love your Neighbor

1. Explain
 - a. Jesus exposes him by saying in effect: "So you already know the answer." He sees that he has been exposed and needs to cover up his hypocrisy and so verse 29 says, "Desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'" In other words, it's not so easy, Jesus. Life is complicated—like, which kind of people do we have to love? Who qualifies for being a neighbor in the command, "Love your neighbor"? Every race? Every age? What about those people who hate me? What about that person who ruined my life? What about the opposite political party!? Thats impossible!
 - b. Jesus tells a story that changes the question from **What kind of person is my neighbor?** to **What kind of person am I?** He changes the question from **What status of people are worthy of my love?** to **How can I become the kind of person whose compassion disregards status?**
 - c. The samaritan was a very different kind of person. The priest, the levite, saw the dying man, and walked by. Do you look upon people as an inconvenience or an opportunity to serve? In your mind, are people obstacles to fulfilling your God-given purpose, or do people serve a central role in God's purpose for your life?
 - i. Seminary Graduates/Pastors who do not know the bride
 1. People are a burden, not a calling. **Pastors who do not see themselves as shepherds are in the wrong profession.**
 - d. **Who is your neighbor?**
 - i. **Our neighbor is thus anyone in our proximity with whom we can share God's love. We are called not only to love those who are similar to us or with whom we are comfortable, but all whom God places in our path.**
 - ii. classism is evil for this very purpose
 1. Jews/samaritans
 2. White/black
 3. Male/female
 4. Wealthy/poor
 5. old/young
 - iii. The lost and dying

1. Penn Jillette - How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them?
- iv. Imagine if we could see with God's eyes... (prostitute, the single mom, the, businessman)
2. Apply
 - a. **Loving your enemy doesn't mean somehow conjuring up a phony warm feeling in your heart for someone you actually hate. It means doing the right thing by your enemy, even if you don't particularly like them. Being kind to someone who would kick you in the teeth if they had the chance**
 - b. Take care of them like you would take care of yourself.
 - i. This requires an investment
 1. Money, Time, Resources, Effort, Nurturing
 - ii. Some of us are too busy. I genuinely believe that sometimes Satan fills our lives up with busyness to keep us from God's plan. Free up your schedule! Work less, love more.
 - c. Love your Unborn Neighbor
 - i. Genesis 9:6 - Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.
 1. Whenever you murder a human, you attack the image of God. A grievous offense
 - ii. Psalm 139:13-14a - For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made
 - d. What kind of person am I
 - i. You see how the focus has shifted. The question about what kind of man is dying is not even in the story any more. The whole focus is now on the kind of people who are walking by
 - ii. No answer to his question: Who is my neighbor? Instead: Go become a new kind of person. Go get a compassionate heart.
 - iii. When we are done trying to establish, "Is this my neighbor?" The decisive issue of love remains: What kind of person am I? Does compassion rise in my heart for all people? Or just some people? Do I have compassion on the liberal down the street? Do I have compassion for the muslims on the other side of the world? Do I have compassion on the person who just cut me off?

We all Need Mercy (Conclusion)

1. Explain
 - a. The truth is, none of us do this perfectly. We fail to love God with everything we have, and love others as ourselves on a daily basis. But the great hope of christianity, is that we have a savior, Who did do this perfectly. And he gives us His righteousness!
 - b. We often miss the point of the story. Jesus is not just telling us to be good neighbors. He is also showing us that in spite of our attempts to justify ourselves,

like the lawyer did, justifying our lack of good works and morality, **we are all ultimately desperate and in need of mercy.**

- c. **We were the man on the side of the road... Broken, hopeless, needy.**
- d. Jesus is the one who came to us and had compassion on us. He bound up our wounds, and cared for us. He took out of our sin and relocated us into His home where we could heal. He paid for our healing not with coins but with His own blood on the cross. Our debt has been paid, our sins erased, our future restored. Our lives SAVED.
- e. He gave us a new heart, made us a new people. Enabled and empowered us to go out and Love others as He loves us.
- f. For the christian, **Love is a commitment that leads to action.** It is not an emotion. It is not something that comes and goes. It is not based on ourselves, or the other person. It is based upon God, and manifests itself in ACTION. So this week, because of the great love that God has for us, let us go love our neighbors

Pray



LUKE 10:25-37

INTRODUCTION

Jesus gives us His greatest commandment, Love God with everything you have, and love your neighbor as yourself. He then tells the story of the good samaritan, and helps us to see how we radically fall short.

DISCUSSION

- What is love?

EXPLANATION

- Why does Jesus answer a question with a question in vs 26?
- Why is the lawyer hung up on the definition of neighbor?
- Before Christ, how were we like the wounded man on the side of the road?
- How is knowing what is right and living what is right different?

APPLICATION

- Who is your neighbor?
- Who do we see loving people in the ways that Jesus calls us?
- How do we justify ignoring the practical and spiritual needs of people in our lives?
- What are some practical ways we can love our neighbors

THE 5 W's (broken up into gendered groups)

- Word (How have you gotten into the word this week?)
- Wife/Husband/Family (How are you doing with your spouse/family?)
- Wellness (What are you doing to take care of yourself?)
- Work (How are you handling the work God has given you?)
- Witness (Who have you witnessed to, or prayed for this week?)