

EVERYONE ALWAYS | LUKE 10:25-37

I. THE PARABLES OF JESUS

- A. Parables are stories or illustrations told by Jesus **to illustrate divine truths**. They are illustrations by Jesus to illuminate the nuances of the Word, God, and the Kingdom.
 - 1. Parables are not stories to **conclude** theological truths, but they help **illuminate** truths already found in scripture and God's heart.
- B. In this series **our goal** is simple: **To get better acquainted with God and His Word through the stories Jesus told.**

II. LOVE ISNT SOMETHING WE FEEL, ITS SOMETHING WE DO, REGARDLESS OF HOW WE FEEL.

- A. **The call to love is not the call to feel a certain way, but act a certain way.** We don't wait to feel love before we show love. We show love to others and love for them will grow in us over time.
- B. Our theme today: **Love is an action before it's a feeling.** Love that feels but doesn't act is not love. Love is not sentiment. Love is the act of laying down something at the cost of our self.
 - 1. **Love is the act of self giving.** In the same way that when God loved, he gave His son, and His life. If we love those around us it costs us something. It can cost us **obvious things** like our time, energy, money. But it can cost **less obvious** things like our pride, our need for self focus, our need to be right.
 - 2. **"It's the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge, and my job to love."** -Billy Graham
 - 3. **"The world is not a playground; it's a schoolroom. Life is not a holiday but an education. And the one eternal question for us all is how better we can love."** – Henry Drummond
- C. **The question in front of us this morning: Is our love for our neighbor evident or sentiment?** Do we show the world around us love in our interactions? Do we walk reality in loving our neighbor or is it simply an intention?

III. EXAMINING OUR PARABLE: THE GOOD SAMARITAN?

- A. A scholar of Jewish religious law challenges Jesus. Asking Him what the requirements to getting obtaining eternal life are. Jesus gives him the answer. But the lawyer presses further. He wants to **know how much love is he supposed to give** and how many people he has to love to meet the requirements of the law.

- B. **The Scene.** The Road from Jerusalem to Jericho was a very well known- notorious road. The roman historian Jerome tells us that the road was call “The Bloody Way”. In fact to many its still known as the “Red Road”. It was a rocky road where violent gangs often waited in hiding looking for lone travelers or small groups they could over power. Every one listening would have known this. It would have been like someone telling a story using 7th and Van Buren in Phoenix where I grew up as the setting. Was a notoriously dangerous spot.
- C. **The Characters.**
1. ***The Traveler:*** He was obviously a little reckless, to be going down Bloody Way with goods and valuables by himself. Nobody would've traveled that way is valuables and not gone at the same time as others for safety. So there is an element here where it's partly his fault he's in this situation in the first place.
 2. ***The Priest:*** He walks quickly past him without helping. The Priest would've thought he was dead. Numbers 19:11, you were ceremonially “unclean” for 7 days after touching a dead person. He didn't want to risk his turn at serving in the temple. Showing someone putting religious duty, or “law” over loving this man.
 3. ***The Levite:*** Someone who served at the temple. A picture of a devote believer. He at least passes to the same side as the man; showing that he gave a thought to helping, while ultimately choosing not to. The inconvenience of helping him on the bloody way road, was more than he was willing to do. The listeners of this story would've been priests and Levites and or ones you held them in high regard.
 4. ***The Samaritan:*** The listeners would've heard “and then a Samaritan” and assumed the villain of the story was entering. It would've been the equivalent of a conservative Republican hearing, “And then a transvestite came along” or “and then a Isis Imam came along” Hearing “a Samaritan” would've shocked his hearers as Jews then considered them unclean and a sin to even talk to.
- D. ***The Samaritan's sacrifice of love.*** We would've had to have torn his clothes to make bandages. Had to walk the 20 miles out of the passage with the traveler on his donkey. He gave him oil and wine which were highly costly. He spent a weeks wages to put him up at the hotel, and offered to pay more if needed. ***Jesus has this man doing all this for a man who not only did he not know, but a man who deeply hated and resented him. Yet he loved him any way.***
1. ***“Whatever is mine is God's and whatever is God's belongs to my neighbor because my neighbor belongs to Him.”*** -Bruce Larson commentator on Luke

IV. 3 THINGS WE SEE ABOUT LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

- A. **Love should not be limited by its object.** Jesus' point is to show us that love is unconditional and **not reserved only for those who we think deserve it.**
1. **Our neighbor is any one in our path.** It's not only the people we live around, our co-workers, our family. But our neighbor is also the checkout guy at the grocery store, the driver on the freeway that tailgates you, the bill collector on the phone, the person you sit next to on a plane, ANYONE you come in contact with is your neighbor. **Jesus tasks us with showing love to them, not just feeling love for them.**
 - a. There is **practical wisdom** to how to walk this out, but we can't be so quick to jump to the practical's that don't sit and hold the weight of what Jesus is asking.
 2. **"For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"** Matt 5:6
 3. **"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God."** I John 4:7
 4. **"Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire about whether or not they are worthy."** –Thomas Merton
- B. **Love is a lifestyle not a religious duty.** Jesus is pointing out to the lawyer that loving your neighbor doesn't mean go out and find someone to love each week to fulfill a religious duty. Instead LOVE IS SOMETHING WE DO. At all times, in all things. The Samaritan showed love not out of duty but because it's clear that is the type of person he was.
1. We show love not out of duty but because we've **seen the unconditional love of God shown to us weak and undeserving people.** He showed us mercy and gave up His life that we may have life and live eternally with Him. The cost of love was His life. He only asks that we live a life of showing that kind of love to humanity. When we do we testify of Jesus and His gospel in a greater way than any sermon, or evangelistic track ever could.
 2. **"Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."** Romans 13:8-10
 3. **"Do things for people not because of who they are or what they do in return, but because of who you are."** – Mother Teresa
- C. **Love is not love unless it's an action.** The Samaritan took pity on him, but then he translated that pity into **acts of love and service.**

1. It is not enough for us **to look at the people around us and say we love them**, we must act that love out. The Samaritan sacrificed his clothing, oil and wine, money, transportation, and time for an enemy stranger he saw hurting. It puts this question I mentioned at the beginning before us again:

V. IS OUR LOVE EVIDENT OR SENTIMENT?

- A. Who are the people in our lives that we could love better?
- B. Who are the people in our lives that we need to ask for forgiveness to, and repair a relationship that moves back toward love?
- C. How can we be Jesus to those around us?