

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

LUKE 10:25-37 – The Parable of the Good Samaritan

"And behold, a lawyer stood up to put (Jesus) 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 (Duet 6:5) and your neighbor as yourself." (Lev 19:18) 28 And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR:

1. THE MANDATE

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.



*Distance = 17-20 miles with a 3,000 ft. drop in elevation over harsh, arid, terrain

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."

*a denarii = roughly a day's wage for a laborer)

2. THE METHOD – THREE PRACTICAL WAYS TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

A. CULTIVATE COURAGE

"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to Your servants to continue to speak Your word with all boldness, while You stretch out Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."

(Acts 4:29-30)

B. MAKE MARGIN FOR THE MARGINALIZED

C. BE ACTIVE VS REACTIVE

3. THE MOTIVATION

"Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified."

(Galatians 2:16)

A. ADMIT YOUR NEED OF HIM

B. BELIEVE THAT ONLY HE CAN JUSTIFY YOU

C. CHOOSE TO LIVE IN RESPONSE TO HIS LOVE

REFLECTION/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are the greatest inconveniences in your life? (Expenditures of time? money? Emotional issues? Travel plans? Working with others?)
2. Did the lawyer understand what was necessary to inherit eternal life? Did he summarize the Law correctly?
3. After Jesus affirmed his correct reply, what did the legal expert then want to do? (10:29)
4. Consider this parable from the point of view of the priest and the Levite. Could they have had good reasons for behaving the way that they did?
5. What natural inclinations make it easier for you to act like the priest and the Levite rather than the Samaritan?
6. What was the Samaritan's response? Why did he help the beaten man? (10:33) How practical was his approach?
7. How does it feel when someone has mercy on you? How do you feel when you get in trouble because of your own foolish actions? How does mercy feel then?
8. In what ways can we as Christians be more like the Samaritan? Is this something God expects of you?
9. How would you summarize the message of this parable?