

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Can I Be Your Neighbor

Passage: Luke 10:25-37 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: Jesus instructs believers on how loving one's neighbor actually looks.

I. An expert answer (10:17-20)

- The expert in the OT law seeks to entrap the popular rabbi from Nazareth regarding eternal life - salvation, entrance into Messiah's kingdom - and the requirements for entrance.
- Jesus volleys the question back to the lawyer asking what the law says.
- The lawyer responds by quoting Deut. 6:5 & Lev. 19:18 to which Jesus says is the correct answer.

II. A compassionate parable (10:21-22)

- To demonstrate the lawyer's misunderstanding of his own righteousness Jesus offers a parable.
- The man in the parable is unnamed, to likely be understood as a Jew and to represent the lawyer.
- The way north from Jerusalem to Jericho was 17 miles of rough roads dropping some 3000+ feet.
- This road was known as "The bloody way" due to the danger that loomed, especially from robbers.
- The traveling man is robbed, beaten severely, stripped and left for dead. He was in desperate need.
- The priest and the Levite were both men of means and ability to help, even calling do do so but ignored.
- Israel's religious leaders celebrated **Psalm 139:21-22** as defining their responsibility to others.
- A Samaritan would have been a normal casting choice to play the "bad guy" in a story but Jesus makes him the hero.
- Samaritans were a mixed race of Jew and Gentile who sought to follow Jewish heritage and customs.
- The Samaritan sees the same thing that the others saw, but how he sees is the difference maker.
- Compassion drives him to care for the needs of the hurting man - immediate, extended and on going.
- Jesus then asks the lawyer an obvious question "Who proved to BE a neighbor?"
- "A neighbor is any person with a need that another knows about and is able to meet. A recognized need that one has the ability to meet makes the needy one a neighbor. And the proof of neighborliness is one's response to the need." J Dwight Pentecost
- The lawyer would have realized that because he had not loved his neighbor there was no way that he was loving God as the law required. He would have been exposed as a man in desperate need.

III. "You go and do likewise"

- What needy neighbor is God bringing to your mind right now that He wants you to meet in His name?
- Are there folks in need that you "won't see" because of their sin, race, politics, worldview, religion, etc.?
- Would you make regular time to go where the needs are in order to see and try to meet them?
- Will you partner with us on some specific OC community needs this holiday season?
 - Thanksgiving at The Mission
 - Thanksgiving and Christmas with Youth for Christ
 - Thanksgiving day with Faith Xtreme at Westwood Middle School