

Love Your Neighbor

Read: Luke 10:25-37

Main Idea: Genuine love breaks down barriers and compels us to act towards others with compassion, reflecting Christ's love for us.

Key Verses: "My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory." (**James 2:1, ESV**)

Key Principles:

- Eternal life is not dependent upon works, rather God's grace through faith that bears fruit in our love for God and our neighbors.
- Favoritism and boundaries, like race or status, hinder true neighborly love and compassion towards those that are different from us.
- Indifference from religious leaders shows that ritual purity without mercy fails to fulfill the law, exposing the emptiness of religion without love.
- Compassion involves practical, sacrificial action, not just sentiment, mirroring Christ's self-giving love for sinners.
- Being a neighbor is about proactive mercy, not defining who qualifies as one, shifting focus from receiving to giving love universally.
- True faith moves towards full obedience to God's law, knowing that one failure breaks it all, but Christ's mercy enables us to extend mercy to others.

Discussion:

1. How does the lawyer's testing of Jesus challenge us to evaluate our own attitudes toward eternal life? Share a time when recognizing your inability to perfectly love God and others led you to rely more on Christ's grace.
2. What freedoms do we embrace when we reject self-justification and open our hearts to God's expansive definition of love?
3. What modern examples of religious busyness or fear prevent us from aiding those in need, and how does this contradict the gospel's call to mercy?
4. How have you extended compassion in costly ways, and what insights from Jesus' example encourage bolder service?
5. Who in your life has unexpectedly been a "good neighbor" to you, and how can focusing on being merciful transform your relationships?
6. What in this world makes you long for eternity's mercy, and how does this hope fuel practical obedience in loving the overlooked?

Prayer:

- Pray for hearts that embrace the freedom of grace over self in loving God and others.
- Pray for:
 - Us to extend compassion sacrificially to those society deems unworthy.
 - Boldness to be good neighbors and faithful servants.
 - Endurance in mercy, motivated by the hope of eternity where love triumphs fully.

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Luke 10:25-37

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| I. | Don't <u>limit</u> the gospel's <u>scope</u>. | 10:25-29 |
| 1. | <u>Evaluate</u> your <u>attitude</u> . | 10:25-28 |
| 2. | <u>Embrace</u> your <u>freedom</u> . | 10:29 |
| II. | Don't <u>forget</u> the gospel's <u>focus</u>. | 10:30-35 |
| 1. | <u>Reject</u> <u>indifference</u> to those in need. | 10:30-32 |
| 2. | <u>Extend</u> <u>compassion</u> to those in need. | 10:33-35 |
| III. | Don't <u>miss</u> the gospel's <u>calling</u>. | 10:36-37 |
| 1. | Be a good <u>neighbor</u> . | 10:36 |
| 2. | Be a <u>faithful</u> <u>servant</u> . | 10:37 |

NEXT WEEK:
Breaking Down Barriers
Galatians 3:23-29