

The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37

- I. Introduction
 - a. One evidence of the truth of Christianity
 - i. It calls us to do things that appear painful and unnatural
 - ii. We would never do them if left to our own preferences
 - iii. But we do them reluctantly, out of a sense of duty and submission to God
 - iv. But when we do them, we find that they are joyful and satisfying
 - b. The specific commands that seem unnatural to us vary from person to person
 - i. This morning's topic is one that is a Christian duty that does not come naturally to me
 - ii. Some would do this even if Jesus never suggested it
 - iii. My dad was like that
 - iv. I prefer to do what I planned to do, without being side tracked by other people's issues
 - v. But when I help others, I am so glad I did
 - vi. That tells me Jesus knows more about what's good for me than I do!
- II. Exposition
 - a. The lawyer and Jesus
 - i. The lawyer
 - 1. Taught people how to apply the laws of Moses
 - 2. Had a respected position in society
 - 3. Wanted to test Jesus
 - 4. Asked one of the most important questions we can ever ask – What shall I do to inherit eternal life?
 - a. It is our highest good
 - b. We cannot obtain it independently of God and revelation
 - c. But we can obtain it, if we seek it properly
 - ii. Jesus
 - 1. Asks him to answer his own question
 - 2. Tells him that he is right
 - a. If we do that we can live
 - b. Perfect love and God and neighbor will earn eternal life
 - iii. The lawyer
 - 1. Apparently feels fairly confident on the first point
 - 2. Wants to follow up on the second
 - 3. Seeking to justify himself
 - 4. Who is my neighbor?
 - b. The Parable of the Good Samaritan
 - i. A common tragedy
 - 1. A man taken by thieves
 - 2. Robbed and left half-dead

- ii. A common disregard
 - 1. Two men saw him but did not help
 - a. A priest
 - b. A Levite
 - 2. Unwilling to assist
 - 3. Perhaps afraid of becoming ritually unclean if this man were dead or died while in their care
 - 4. Representatives of the two most holy professions in Jewish society have passed him by
 - 5. Now he is REALLY helpless
- iii. An Uncommon sympathizer
 - 1. The Samaritan
 - 2. Saw him
 - 3. Had compassion
 - a. He sympathized with this man
 - b. He could have distanced himself
 - i. Not my family
 - ii. Not my friend
 - iii. Not my townsman
 - iv. Not my tribe
 - v. Not my nation
 - vi. Not my problem
 - c. He allowed himself to have compassion for this man
 - 4. Took action
 - a. Met the urgent need
 - i. Cleaned and dressed his wounds
 - ii. Arranged transportation for him
 - iii. Got him to shelter and further care
 - b. Provided for his full recovery
 - i. Paid two days wages to provide care
 - ii. Made himself surety for any additional needs the man may have
- c. Jesus' Question
 - i. Who was neighbor to the victim of thieves?
 - 1. The answer: He who showed compassion
 - 2. Jesus says we should do the same
 - ii. The question is not
 - 1. Who must I love as myself
 - 2. But, Who can I love as myself
 - 3. The answer is everyone

III. Application

- a. What is my duty?
 - i. OPPORTUNITY + ABILITY = RESPONSIBILITY
 - ii. Gal. 6:9-10
 - iii. 2 Cor. 8:12
- b. Evaluate who I actually help
 - i. Family?
 - ii. Neighbors?

- iii. Friends?
- iv. Brethren?
- v. Strangers like me?
- vi. Across socio-economic boundaries?
- vii. Across ethnic boundaries?
- viii. Across national boundaries?
- ix. Across moral & religious boundaries?
- x. Whoever needs help?
- c. Examine reasons for not helping
 - i. Someone else will help
 - ii. I'm busy
 - iii. I'm likely to make things worse
 - iv. It would make me uncomfortable
 - v. It would keep me from doing other things that I would rather do with my time, money, etc.
 - vi. It is inconvenient
 - vii. I'll help the next person
 - viii. I don't love them enough to help
- d. First Love God – Then Love Neighbor
 - i. There are many who we may be very uncomfortable helping because they are so different from us
 - 1. No reason to hide from this truth
 - 2. We should face it
 - 3. It is harder to help people the more differences there are between us
 - 4. Those differences can be significant barriers to helping
 - ii. It helps to keep in mind the love God has for us that crosses every barrier that divides man from man
 - 1. Not His family
 - 2. Not His Neighbor
 - 3. Not His friend
 - 4. Not His language & nationality
 - 5. Not His economic status
 - 6. Not His moral status
 - 7. Not His kind
 - 8. Not His problem
 - 9. He overcame all these barriers, by
 - a. Becoming man himself
 - b. Taking on frail flesh
 - c. Speaking a human language
 - d. Becoming related to us
 - e. Having compassion on us
 - f. Rescuing us from the deadly attack of Satan
 - g. Providing for our present and future spiritual well-being
 - h. Desiring not just to keep us alive, but keep us in close fellowship with Him
 - 10. That's love
 - iii. The barriers God crossed to love and help us

1. Dwarfs to insignificance any barriers we may have to cross to help a fellow human-being
2. If I
 - a. Love him with all my heart, soul and mind
 - b. then I will Want what He wants
 - c. And I will see that He loves my neighbor as much as He loves me
 - d. And if He loves my neighbor as He does myself
 - e. Then I can love my neighbor as I love myself
- e. The alternatives and their consequences
 - i. ALTERNATIVE 1 – Love neighbor as myself
 1. Obey Jesus command to go and do likewise
 2. Put a Christian charity on display before the world
 3. Bring glory to Jesus - Mat. 5:14-16
 4. While loving and helping my fellowman
 - ii. ALTERNATIVE 2 – Love myself much more than my neighbor
 1. Look for and find reasons not to help
 2. Hide Christ from the world
 3. Only display love within the closed circles of family, friends and fellow Christians
 4. Disobey the direct command of Christ

IV. Conclusion

- a. Response
 - i. Ashamed of past occasions of failing to help those in need
 - ii. Determined to take the next available opportunity of helping
- b. Actions
 - i. Who needs my help?
 - ii. Do something about it
- c. INVITATION
 - i. The lawyer wanted to justify himself
 - ii. Is that our desire?
 - iii. Or do we desire to be justified by Jesus Christ?