

Loving Your Neighbors

Luke 10:29 (HCSB) *But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

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Text: Luke 10:25-37	Dr. David Crowe

To truly love your neighbor you must...

1) Prevent _____ discrimination (27-33a)

Then Jesus laid into him and said, "A man was going from Atlanta to Albany and some gangsters held him up. When they had robbed him of his wallet and brand-new suit, they beat him up and drove off in his car, leaving him unconscious on the shoulder of the highway.

"Now it just so happened that a white preacher was going down that same highway. When he saw the fellow, he stepped on the gas and went scooting by.

"Shortly afterwards a white Gospel song leader came down the road, and when he saw what had happened, he too stepped on the gas.

"Then a black man traveling that way came upon the fellow, and what he saw moved him to tears. He stopped and bound up his wounds as best he could, drew some water from his water-jug to wipe away the blood and then laid him on the back seat. He drove on into Albany and took him to the hospital and said to the nurse, 'You all take good care of this white man I found on the highway. Here's the only two dollars I got, but you all keep account of what he owes, and if he can't pay it, I'll settle up with you when I make a pay-day.'

"Now if you had been the man held up by the gangsters, which of these three—the white preacher, the white song leader, or the black man - would you consider to have been your neighbor?" (Clarence Jordan)

2) Provide revolutionary _____ (33b)

The seventeenth-century English Puritan Richard Baxter wrote:

"Oh, if you have the hearts of Christians or of men in you, let them yearn towards your poor ignorant, ungodly neighbors. Alas, there is but a step betwixt them and death and hell; many hundred diseases are waiting ready to seize on them, and if they die unregenerate, they are lost forever. Have you hearts of rock, that cannot pity men in such a case as this? If you believe not the Word of God, and the danger of sinners, why are you Christians yourselves? If you do believe it, why do you not bestir yourself to the helping of others?"

3) Practice _____ generosity (34-37)

Acts 20:35 (ESV) ...we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Luke 16:9 (NIV) "I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings."

Application Questions

1. How did Jesus reply to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" (10:30-35)
2. What did the priest and the Levite do to help the man who was robbed and beaten? (10:31-32)
3. What was the Samaritan's response to what he saw? (10:33-35)
4. Why did the Samaritan help the beaten man? (10:33)
5. What relationship did Jesus use to characterize the Samaritan's behavior? (10:36)
6. How did the legal expert define the neighbor in the parable? (10:37)
7. What did Jesus command the expert to do in response to the parable? (10:37)
8. How effective is this parable in communicating love for one's neighbor?
9. What natural inclinations make it easier for you to act like the priest and the Levite than like the Samaritan?
10. How practical was the Samaritan's approach to the man in need?
11. How does it feel when someone has mercy on you?
12. In what ways can we as individuals and as groups of Christians be more like the Samaritan?
13. What step can you take to help meet someone else's physical needs?
14. How effective is it to join evangelism together with meeting someone's physical needs?