

Simple Stories – Timeless Truths | Text is perfect and famous | Good Samaritan

- **Famous** = ‘Good Samaritan’ is said by non-Christians | Countless non-prophets / hospitals
 - **Samaritans purse – Samaritans hospitals – Samaritans hands** | ‘I was being a good Samaritan’
- **Perfect** = Perfect question / Person / Perfect responses / Perfect Summarization Christianity
Understanding simple formula | Belief + Behavior | Doctrine + Display | Orthodoxy + Orthopraxy
True Christianity is about believing correct doctrine and living in accordance with that doctrine
You cannot skip a step...Live the best I can...wont: Club seals | Speed School Zones | Paper Straws
- I’ll just learn as much as I can...**Lock in a room...read books...write papers...memorize creeds**
Christianity is to be internally understood and lived out loud | **In our text day... READ**

Story of the Good Samaritan is binds our understanding of the Gospel to our living of the Gospel

- Shows...extreme way how much God loves us & how we love God by loving others | Belief & Behavior
B I: The saints must love from an overflow of Christ’s love | **Understand the amount...you’ll overflow**
Understand amount: How can you hate – Seek revenge | Do anything but try outdo each other in love
That’s the story of the Good Samaritan – Story so powerful changed the world on how we treat others
- Jesus – Final months...earthly ministry – Journeying towards Jerusalem – Blanketing Towns – Preaching
- Crows to a man – ‘Behold’ = Interruption | ‘Lawyer’ – **Not like ours...expert in Jewish Law**
- ‘**Stood up to put Jesus to the test**’ – **First read that...idiot** | **Think about how amazing this is...**
- ‘**What shall I do to inherit eternal life**’ – Exceptionally rare privilege...ask Author of Eternal Life
 - **Asking Jesus ‘What shall I do to inherit eternal life’ is anything but idiotic – I did – So should you**
A man who thinks he has all the answers...challenges Jesus...turns out he doesn’t know squash
This man proves that knowing right answers & being a Christian are two different things

NT often connects our relationship to God with our love for others | Man tries to disconnect...can’t

1. **Love for others is: Motivated by salvation** (Luke 10:25-29)

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him 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, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

The lawyer asks the question and Jesus goes Socratic on him...answers with a question...

- What is written in the law? How do you read (recite) it? **Jesus knows this guy knows the answer!**
- **Answers right ‘You shall love Lord your God w/ all your heart – soul – strength – mind – neighbor’**
 - Shema = Centerpiece of Jewish morning and evening prayer – Deut. 6 | Leviticus 19:18
Love this – Jesus said to him ‘You have answered correctly, do this and you will live’
- At this point the conversation should be over...the guy should nod and walk away committed
- **It’s what we all should do when Jesus gives us an answer...nod – Walk away committed...**
Not what he does – He instead commits to the most worn road that leads away from Jesus...
²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”
- **Lots of roads that lead us from Jesus...this one is the most walked...desiring to justify ourselves**
The fallen condition of the human heart will always seek a religious answer

When he says, ‘And who is my neighbor’ he’s saying...I’ve done enough to inherit eternal life

- I’ve been loving my neighbor perfectly unless you have a different definition
 - Not worried about how he’s been loving God – It’s, ‘I’m a really good dude...just ask me...’
Survival Shows – Set a rinky-dink trap...that will never work – Always does
Satan baits the trap with the promise of salvation through works...we fall for it time and time again
You’re in the wrong order...salvation isn’t earned it’s a free gift – our works display our salvation
- **Our salvation changes us completely...from the inside out...everything about us changes...**
We don’t change to be saved...we’re saved, and we’re changed!

One of the ways we’re changed is in how we love others...and that love must be marked by action

2. **Love for others is: Marked by action** (Luke 10:30-37) – **To the question of ‘Who I my neighbor’**

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.

- The journey from Jerusalem to Jericho = 15 miles...3500 feet in elevation – Hills and rocks
 - Not unusual for someone to get taken advantage of...robbed...beaten...left **mostly dead**
- Now...you’re beaten & robbed...disorientated...what’s broken...will I make it...no cell phone...but look...
³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road,
- Oh my goodness...a holy man...coming from the holy city...religious man...I’m safe...he’ll help me
when he saw him he passed by on the other side - O - So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him
- Oh...Levite...helper priests...God’s commands...help...I’m gonna make it! **passed by on the other side.**
Put this into context – You’re on the side of the road | Me, Brian, Zach, Jay...Deacons – Lunch – Nope!
Jesus uses those of the holiest order to illustrate – Belief without Behavior is Busted

Faith alone saves you...but if your faith hasn’t changed you...you may not have faith! | **Radical on guy**

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. 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.”

It’s difficult to fully grasp how crazy this story is in our modern world...

- Samaritans and Jews HATED each other – With the fire of a thousand sons
Samaritans – Cemetery – Crushed Bones – Desecrated Temple | Jews responded...burn it to ground
- **This story should go...and then along came a Samaritan to finish the job**
Samaritan who takes in the Jewish man...this is who Jesus uses to show unbelievable lengths to love

Our Love for Others must be:

- **Beyond boundaries** – Stripped his own clothes | Oil and wine...soften and give relief
 - **Loving will mean you have to take a chance and get involved**
 - **Loving will mean you don’t get to use ‘busy’ as an excuse**
- **Sincerely selfless** – Set him on his own animal...now he would walk
 - **Loving will mean you don’t get to evaluate risk vs reward**
 - **Loving will mean you have to put away every prejudice**
- **Absolutely abundant** – Inn...two denarii...three weeks to two months...goes further...blank check
 - **Loving will mean you have to sacrifice**
 - Sometimes it will cost you your money | Sometimes it will cost you your right...to be right

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.”

Lawyer wanted to discuss ‘neighbor’ in general | Jesus...consider a specific man who was in need.

It’s easy for us to talk in abstract ideas and fail to solve concrete problems

Lawyer wanted to make the issue complex and philosophical | Jesus made it simple

Move this from debating to doing

So many times we read this text and think about – ‘The High Cost of Caring’

Christians...there is a much higher cost in not caring

Beginning = Perfect = Perfect question / Person / Responses / Perfect Summarization Christianity

And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

- Jesus sent the guy away with an impossible religious task – Love perfectly...all the time
 - The Lawyer couldn’t...and neither can you...we all need the one who can and did love perfectly
- We’re the mostly dead man...side of the road...and Jesus has come along and perfectly loved us
 - **Beyond Boundaries | Sincerely Selfless | Absolutely Abundant**

Understanding simple formula | Belief + Behavior | Doctrine + Display | Orthodoxy + Orthopraxy

B I: The saints must love from an overflow of Christ’s love | **Understand the amount...you’ll overflow**

That’s the story of the Good Samaritan