

“GO IN LOVE”—LUKE 10:25-37—OCTOBER 14, 2016

INTRODUCTION

- Share background information—Resident, Seminary, Family.
- Introduction to series, we are learning what it looks like to Speak of Jesus, and this week is the attitude in which we do that: love.
- How would you define love? What is it? Noun? Verb?
 - Scholar and Author Brene Brown at Houston University says, “**An intangible connection between two people that feels exceptionally good.**” - Brene Brown”
 - Psychology Today, "Love is a force of nature. Love is bigger than you are. You can invite love, but you cannot dictate how, when, and where love expresses itself. You can choose to surrender to love, or not, but in the end love strikes like lightning, unpredictable and irrefutable.”
 - "I understand love only as a theory. I am unable to be the type of person that you are required to be to love."
 - "Love is putting others before yourself, it means caring and helping one another. for love is patient, kind, and forgiving."
 - "Love is when you are extremely happy, complete, and comfortable with someone and you simply do not know why."
 - "Love is something that goes beyond words. It is a deep connection of the human soul."
 - "Love is personal and profound...it is whatever love means to you."
 - "Love...It doesn't exist"
- **My definition:** "Love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another that does not require reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving. This love must be grounded in God and his love for us."
 - **Big Idea:** When we live in God's love, our life will be led by love for others.
 - Question #1 – Who is this Good Samaritan?
 - Question #2 – What is he calling us to?
 - Question #3 – Why do we have a difficult time loving people?

CONTEXT

- Lawyer: The Spiritual Leader of the people. Trained to interpret Jewish law.
 - His question was a normal, typical question of their day.
 - His response to Jesus would be another normal response, former from Deut. 6 and the latter from Lev. 19.
 - Jesus gives a *legal* answer to a *legal* question.
 - Desiring to justify himself, the lawyer asks, “Who is my neighbor? Who do I have to love?”

- Debate in Jewish circles who the neighbor was. **This text is primarily about loving people outside of our circles.**

QUESTION #1 – WHO IS THIS GOOD SAMARITAN?

- Verse 30: A man (probably a Jew) was going from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among robbers, was stripped of his belongings and left half-dead.
 - **Show picture—this road was called “The Way of Blood.”**
- Verse 31-32: Two men passed by the half-dead man: A Priest and a Levite.
 - The Priest was probably fulfilling his duties to serve in Jerusalem for a month. He was fulfilling religious duties in the temple, studying the Scriptures, and seeking the Lord in intense prayer. **Who else is a better fit to help this half-dead man on the side of the road than the Priest?**
 - The Levite was also a temple worker but probably more of an aid role, such as cleaning, washing temple utensils. Still, the fact remains, both of these men were clergymen, who’s lives were built around serving God.
- Verse 33 – But a Samaritan—right away we should pause and be marveled by Jesus’ selection of a Samaritan as the hero.
 - Jews and Samaritans had no dealings with each other. The Jews regarded the Samaritans as half-breed heretics.
- Verse 34-35: Look at the Samaritan’s love and mercy for the half-dead man:
 - The Samaritan bound up the man’s wounds (costing him his safety), poured out oil and wine for healing (costing him his possessions), set him on his animal (costing him his comfort), took him to the inn the next day (costing him his time), paid two denarii for his stay (costing him his wages), and promised to pay the remaining bill if necessary (costing him his word)—The Samaritan risked everything for the sake of loving this man.
- **Who is this good Samaritan?**
- D.A. Carson, **“The Scripture only make sense when we view everything from the lenses of the Cross and the Empty Tomb.”**
 - We cannot over-allegorize the parable, at the same time we do see that there are obvious parallels between Jesus and the Good Samaritan.
 - **For what does the Good Samaritan do? He aids an unknown half dead man, uses his resources to bind his wounds and then pays the full debt for his healing and restoration. A man that was destined for destruction was saved by the intervention of another, all at this other’s expense.**
- **Analogy #1** - The Good Samaritan finds an unknown man that is half dead and saves him—Jesus finds us not half dead but fully dead in our trespasses and sins and brings us back to life
- **Analogy #2** – Jews and Samaritans were enemies, yet we are far greater enemies to God in our sin. Jesus has come, bridged the gap of our distance caused by sin, and has pursued us.

- **Analogy #3** – The Good Samaritan freely gave what was his for the sake of another. Jesus has given us his blood at an infinite cost, bearing the punishment for our sin. Just as the Good Samaritan promised to pay the debt in full, Jesus has paid the ultimate debt in full.

QUESTION #2 – WHAT IS HE CALLING US TO?

- **Verses 36-37:** After Jesus finishes the parable, he turns to the Lawyer and asks, “Which one proved to be the neighbor?” — **Go and do likewise.**
- **Notice that the Lawyer asked, “Who is my neighbor?” and Jesus responded, “Who was neighborly?”**
 - **It is not who we have to love but rather how to embody a lifestyle of love that flows from Jesus’ love.**
 - **“What the Law demands of us, the Gospel really produces in us.” - Spurgeon**
 - Return to our definition of love from before, “Love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another that does not require reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving. And foundational, love is grounded in who God is.”
 - Jesus is calling us to embody this radical lifestyle of love.
 - You can only love as Christ calls us to when your love is being driven by the love of Christ.
- **What does it tangibly look like for us to love people?**
 - Notice people
 - Provide physical care
 - Care about people’s situations
 - Be kind to people
 - Take the time to listen and engage
 - Ask questions about their life, their kids, their job, their family
- The ultimate Good Samaritan, Jesus, is calling us to a lifestyle of life, which is tangibly demonstrated through self-sacrifice and grounded in God’s love towards us.

QUESTION #3 – WHY IS IT DIFFICULT TO LOVE PEOPLE?

- **Mr. Rogers illustration**
 - His neighborhood was easy—ours is hard.
 - I don’t have to prove to you that we have a difficult time loving people.
- **Opening Questions:**
 - Do you think that you love people well?
 - Do you have a hard time loving non-Christians?
 - What type of people is hardest for you to love? Easiest?
 - Even though most of us in this room would say that we don’t judge based upon appearances, the reality is the opposite. We often make quick judgments based upon seeing people. **What do you think when you see people?**

- **Show 5 images of people.**
- **When you look at people and are not moved with compassion, something is happening in your heart that shows you are not living out for love of God.**

Address the Sin of the People

- There are some of you in here that never love people because you simply do not want to enter into the mess of other people's lives. This is case of the Levite and the Priest.
- There are some of you in here that never love people because it'll cost you too much—money, time, energy, emotional capital.
- There are some of you in here who actually do love people well, but are doing so out of wrong motives. You're like the Lawyer who is seeking to justify himself. You think that by loving people, God is more pleased with you.
- There are others of you who are simply looking for the pragmatic answer, "Tell me who I have to love and how I have to love so I can be OK." You are not living out a lifestyle of love.
- **If we were to be honest though—the real reason we don't love people is because we truly do not believe we were the half-dead person on the side of the road in need of rescue. Our situation wasn't that bad. Jesus really didn't need to redeem and rescue us.**
 - But when you see yourself honestly as the dead-man on the side of the road, you will **live in God's love, and your life will be led by love for others.**

CONCLUSION / EXPLANATION OF GOSPEL STORY

- Why is this so important to walk in love? Why is this foundational to all that we do?
 - **Point to Gospel Story diagram.**
 - This is such a big deal because the reality is our actions speak far greater than our words. If we want to truly speak of Jesus and speak the Gospel message to our world, we must walk in love towards people. **We cannot consistently treat people poorly and then say, "God loves you eternally."** Love for others has to be the foundation of all that we do.
- **Brendon Manning Quote, "The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable."**
- **David Smith illustration.**
- **Call to Repentance and believe the Gospel — address different fears, sins—lead back to Jesus' finished work.**

**He left His Father's throne above
So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:**

**Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**