

"The Love Jesus Commands" | Rev Tim Frickenschmidt | October 10, 2021

Old Testament Reading [Prov 3:27-31, 34](#)

²⁷ Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
when it is in your power to do it.
²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again,
tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you.
²⁹ Do not plan evil against your neighbor,
who dwells trustingly beside you.
³⁰ Do not contend with a man for no reason,
when he has done you no harm.
³¹ Do not envy a man of violence
and do not choose any of his ways,
³⁴ Toward the scorners he is scornful,
but to the humble he gives favor.

Epistle Reading [1 John 4:7-13, 19-21](#)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁹ We love because He first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Gospel Reading [Luke 10:25-37](#)

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."

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is 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. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 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. ³⁵ 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.' 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." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Introduction

It grieves Tim that our neighbors still wander the world but they're no longer looking for churches' crosses for hospitality. So, we must ask: are we going out to look for them? When we find strangers in need on the roads of the world, what do we do? The parable of the Good Samaritan ultimately asks the question "Do we love as Jesus commands?" So, three points about that love: (1) What it's like, (2) Who it's for and (3) Where it's from.

Background

1. What is Jesus' love like?
 - a. Both the message and the deeds of the gospel are essential to following Jesus.
 - b. What are the costs of the deeds of the gospel? Time, energy, physical effort, physical safety, money even. It's as if we collectively agreed give me the ridicule and the scorn but let me keep my schedule, my wealth, and my safety and I'll bear that. Give me the former if I can just hold on to the latter. But then we come to Luke chapter 10 and Jesus says something to the effect if you're going to follow after me, if you're going to believe it and follow after me, you've got to be willing to give up both, because that's what love looks like in a dying world. And for a dying world that needs this love.
2. Who is Jesus' love for?
 - a. The lawyer wants to know who Jesus believes counts as a neighbor, who does the Old Testament tell me I have to love with sacrificial, self-giving deeds. In other words, where's the line or the limit to who qualifies as someone who is my neighbor?
 - b. With Jesus there's no limit that He places on the love that He has or the love that He commands. Neighbor and enemy are one.
3. Where is Jesus' love from?
 - a. It doesn't come from doing (as in: What must I do to inherit eternal life?).
 - b. The answer is just love God with all your heart. Just that, just love God with all your heart, all the time, and in every single part of your life, and everyone like a neighbor.
 - c. God has loved you as Himself. Because that is where love comes from. It comes from the radical realization that Jesus has already loved you like He commands you to love others. As 1 John 4 says, God is love. And if we ever love anyone at all, it's because God, Himself, has poured His love and His very life into our hearts. And we're loving other people with the very love that is God.

Discuss

1. Do we love as Jesus commands?
2. Are we going out to look for strangers? When we find them, what do we do?
3. Why/how do we tear apart the message of the Gospel and the deeds of the Gospel?
4. God doesn't care about our reasons for not helping someone (even the reprehensible).
5. Duty, law and morality can't take us to the radically sacrificial place Jesus is calling us.
6. So go and do likewise (Luke 10:37)
- 7.

Conclusion/Application

•Would you want grace if you were the undeserving and you were the dying? What if you were the one that's bleeding to death in a ditch, tossed away and your only hope was that of an absolutely free grace from someone who saw you as their enemy? And the only thing that you deserved from them was for them to pass you by? Would you want grace? Because that is the situation, friends, that's your situation, that's my situation. The lawyer is in the road and Jesus is the Samaritan and we're the lawyer, every single one of us.
•So, friends, go and do likewise. Go and do likewise. Let's love our neighbors with the love that God has graciously poured into us through His Son and by His Spirit.