

THE COST OF LOVE

Once Upon a Time: Part Three

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

May 14, 2017 – Mother's Day

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ON TV SCREEN

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"

²⁷ The man answered, " 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "

²⁸ "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"

²⁹ The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

³¹ "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. ³² A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

³³ "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. ³⁴ Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'

³⁶ "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.

³⁷ The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy."

Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

Luke 10:25–37 (NLT)

1. I CAN TELL HOW MUCH I LOVE GOD BY HOW MUCH I LOVE PEOPLE.

"Love your neighbor as yourself...Do this and you will live!"

"For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself..." (Galatians 5:14, The Message)

PRINCIPLE: LOVED people love people.

2. I CAN TELL IF MY LOVE IS REAL BY THE WAY I RESPOND TO NEEDS.

A. The priest DISTANCED himself.

...when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by.

"The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and people say, 'Look at him! He's a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'" (Matthew 11:19, GW)

B. The Temple Assistant DISTRACTED himself.

...looked at him lying there, but he also passed by...

"As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing..." (Luke 10:38–40, NLT)

C. The Samaritan DEDICATED himself.

Going over to him...

"Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." (Luke 7:47, NIV)

PRINCIPLE: CHANGED people change people.

3. I CAN MEASURE MY IMPACT BY WHAT I GIVE BACK.

FOUR WAYS TO GIVE LOVE

1) Give my ATTENTION.

...when he saw the man...

"You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest." (John 4:35, NLT)

2) Give my COMPASSION.

...he felt compassion for him.

"The person who doesn't love doesn't know God, because God is love." (1 John 4:8, GW)

3) Give my TIME.

...he took care of him.

"...Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?" (James 2:14–17, The Message)

4) Give my RESOURCES.

The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'

"Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions." (1 John 3:18, The Living Bible)

ACTION:
COMMUNITY SURVEY