

“Linchpin” - Part 4: Love People (7-22-2018)

New Series: Linchpin – A Study of the Book of Deuteronomy: Know what anchors you, and living accordingly!

Review: 1) **Grab the Baton** 2) **Love God** (fulfilling the Law Part 1)

Today: **Love People** (Fulfilling the Law Part 2)

Introduction: “Stare boy” & “Whose your friend”

Jesus, the Lawyer, and the Good Samaritan – 3rd time in gospel Jesus’ speaks on “The Greatest Commandment!”

Luke 10:25-29 (ESV)

(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?"

Notes:

1) **Watch what the Lawyer is doing in this story . . .**

- **Testing** (judging) People (and ultimately God)
- **Justifying** Himself

When it comes to making our way in this world we often follow this pattern!

Are we looking for what’s genuinely right & good, or just seeing what we can get by on?

Even when we are genuine in wanting to love well, things can get tough fast!

2) **Loving People sounds nice, but it’s hard** (Jesus engages with this Lawyer, they quote the Law (Deut & Lev)

Leviticus 19:9-18 (ESV)

(9) "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. (10) And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. **You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner:** I am the LORD your God. (11) "**You shall not steal**; you shall not deal falsely; **you shall not lie to one another**. (12) You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. (13) "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. (14) You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. (15) "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. (16) **You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people**, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. (17) "**You shall not hate your brother in your heart**, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. (18) You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.**

Notes: Some key observations from Lev. 19 . . .

- Love is about pro-actively doing good – leave extra for the poor (verses 9-10)
- Love is about avoiding hurting people . . .
 - Physically – don’t steal (vs. 11), judge fairly (vs. 15)
 - Mentally – don’t lie (vs. 11), don’t wait to pay (vs. 13)
 - Emotionally – don’t slander (vs. 16), don’t curse the weak – deaf & blind (vs. 14)
- Loving people is about caring for your own soul too . . .
 - Don’t hate in your heart (vs. 17)
 - Remember how we love God? With what? Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength!
- Loving People is Loving God – 5 times in short passage: “I am the Lord”
 - This is who He is – a loving God and we are called to love his people!
 - This is who we are - We are made in his image, so People are valuable!

Loving People is hard – No wonder the lawyer wanted to judge people and justify himself!

To help this guy understand how to love people, Jesus tells a story . . .

Luke 10:30-35 (ESV)

(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.'

Notes: To Love this way requires . . . Time, Compassion, Action, Expense

- 1) **Time:** Story of busyness by Malcom Gladwell (believe it or not, this is step one!)
- 2) **Compassion:** What keeps us from seeing those in need & caring? Notice who Jesus makes the hero in this story – a Samaritan! He doesn’t say your neighbor is the hurt person. Jesus says the one who “acts neighborly” is the true neighbor. So, who would the Lawyer relate to in this story? The wounded one!

Until we get in someone else’s shoes, we’ll never have compassion!

- 3) **Action:** Don’t just stop at compassion (or good thoughts) that alone isn’t love!

Check out the Apostle John’s letter to the church on Love . . .

1 John 3:16-18 (ESV)

(16) By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (17) But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (18) Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Notes: Verse 18 – Love: not in Word or Talk, but in Deed and Truth

- **Word (logos) – expression of intelligence**
- **Talk (glossa) – tongue, speech**

Listen: Love is not about sounding intelligent, or having a lovely thought or beautifully crafted speech. It's like somehow if I've had the thought or expressed beautifully what "should" be done, that it's enough. Honestly, if I've just read what someone else said should be done and agree with it, that somehow I'm loving & empathetic.

No, it's about action!!!

- **Deed (ergon) – work, labor, performance**
- **Truth (alethia) – true, reality . . . the unveiled reality lying behind the basis of an appearance**

Love acts & speaks truth!!!

- **Chris Jerger's charity quote:** "Our act of charity is stewardship of His love moment by moment"
- **Charity:** Love, the Agape (God's special Love) is love in action! (see: 1 John 3:16)

4) Expense

Our action of love, will cost us. And if it's real, then it will be tangible . . .

How the Samaritan Loved:

- **Bound up his wounds & used his own materials**
- **Carried him on his donkey (meaning he walked) – treacherous landscape:** The road from Jerusalem to Jericho descends approximately 3,000 feet in about 17 miles. Walking, while leading a donkey carrying a wounded man!!
- **Stayed and cared for him at the inn** – Could have left him somewhere and gotten rest.
- **Ongoing care** – provide financially for his care to continue!

Conclusion:

Luke 10:36-37 (ESV)

(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."