

OUT THERE

Part 2: An Out There Kind of Love

Objective: To encourage us to love those that are hard to love because Jesus loved us first.

Read together:

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke 10:25-37

We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

1 John 4:19-21

- What kinds of people do you find the hardest to love? Why?
- If you were aware of the story of the 'Good Samaritan', did you realize how deep the animosity between the two groups was? Does the context of their hatred change the impact of the story for you? Why or why not?
- In the story of the 'Good Samaritan', which character do you most identify with? Why?
- What does unconditional love look like to you? How can you put unconditional love into action?
- According to the sermon, loving others isn't about how we feel, it's about doing what's best for them, even when it's hard. When you think of doing the best for others, what comes to you mind? Are you willing to do that for the people you find hard to love?
- How does the knowledge that Jesus loved you when you were unlovable impact the way you respond to other people?

Final Thought: We don't love others because they deserve it. We love others because Jesus loved us and the only right response to his love for us is to love others by serving them.

This Week: Look for ways to serve someone you find hard to love. You may be surprised at what God does through your service.

