



Sermon Series: Mysteries: The Greatest Stories Jesus Told, :art 1

Sermon Title: Good Neighbor

Speaker/ Date: Reuben Scheeringa, September 6, 2020

Luke 10: 25-37

The religious leaders of Jesus day asked Him what the greatest commandment from God was, and Jesus gave them two. He said that the first is to love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and the second is like it, to love your neighbor as yourself.

If we got those two commandments right we would get everything else right. We could say goodbye to Gossip, lying, stealing, murdering, abortion, addiction, racism, and every other sin would disappear immediately.

Big Idea: Faith in Christ values people the way God values them.

In other words, real faith in Christ will show up in your life by sticking up for the underdog, by reaching out to the lonely, and putting other people first. Jesus addresses this in **Luke 10:25-28**

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered, ““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, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

This “religious expert” was probably a little uncomfortable, so, he asked a question back to Jesus... **Luke 10:29**. Jesus tells a parable that calls us to a radical uncompromising compassion towards everyone, and in this parable, we see four attributes of that compassion

1. Compassion reflects a growing relationship with God.

Luke 10:27

Compassion will never happen on its own. Loving God with everything you have comes first. If you are doing that, it is a spiritual impossibility for you to not be overflowing with compassion and love towards other people. It will just come bubbling up out of you.

2. Compassion sees people as God sees people.

Luke 10:30-32

In this brief story, we see three pictures of people that showed no compassion. They didn't see the Jewish man as God sees him. They responded to the perceived worth of the man and not the actual value and image of God that was in him.

Luckily, for this man on the road, there's one other person that comes along. **Luke 10:33-34**

3. Compassion requires a desire to serve

If we obey God and truly have compassion, it's going to develop a desire to serve others no matter who they are! **Colossians 3:12**

The problem of loving our neighbor stems from people thinking others are less important than they are. Bad neighbors believe others' needs, desires, and beliefs aren't as important as their own. That's at the root of all of this, but you know what? God never asks you to place others as equal to yourself. What God asks is that you place others as more important than yourself!

4. Compassion requires sacrifice.

Luke 10:35-37

Be willing to go the extra mile, inconvenience yourself, and give all that you can. Be willing to take risks, get out of your comfort zone, set aside your own agenda and perceptions of others, and put others before yourself.

Just imagine what it would look like in our society if every Christian had a growing relationship with God, saw people as He sees them, had a commitment to serve, and were willing to sacrifice for others. Imagine if just the Christians started doing that. It would change the entire landscape and atmosphere of our world this week. If all of this were happening every day in your school/work/home, it wouldn't be long before mistreating your neighbor would be nonexistent. No one would be left out and lonely.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What ways do you see radical compassion in our society?**
- **How well you get along with your physical neighbors? Do they know you are a Christian? What ways do they see you living your life for Jesus?**
- **Do you love your neighbor equal to yourself or less than yourself or more than yourself?**
- **When you see someone who needs help, are you likely to stop and help them or do you expect someone else to help?**
- **What keeps you from perfectly loving people the way God loves them?**
- **Give an example of when you saw someone display compassion towards you. How did it affect you?**