

Relationship – The Essence of Reality

Let's look at how we change to know God & do His will.

The Good Samaritan – Loving God, Loving Others

Luke 10:25-37 TPT *“Just then a religious scholar stood before Jesus in order to test His doctrines. He posed this question:*

“Teacher, what requirement must I fulfill if I want to live forever in heaven?”

26. *Jesus replied, “What do you read in the Law? How do you understand it?”*

27. *The religious scholar answered, “It states, ‘You must love the Lord God with all your heart, all your passion, all your energy, and your every thought. And you must love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

28. *Jesus said, “That is correct. Now go and do exactly that and you will live.”*

29. *Wanting to justify himself, he questioned Jesus further, saying, “What do you mean by ‘my neighbor’?”*

30. *Jesus replied, “There was once a Jewish man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when bandits robbed him along the way. They beat him severely, stripped him naked, and left him half dead.” **TPT note:** ““Jewish” is implied in the context.”*

31. *“Soon, a Jewish priest walking down the same road came upon the wounded man. Seeing him from a distance, the priest crossed to the other side of the road and walked right past him, not turning to help him one bit.*

32. *“Later, a religious man, a Levite*, came walking down the same road and likewise crossed to the other side to pass by the wounded man without stopping to help him. *TPT: “Levites were temple assistants, helping the priests.”*

33. *“Finally, another man, a Samaritan, came upon the bleeding man and was moved with tender compassion for him.*

TPT note: “There was racial tension in those days between Jews and Samaritans. The Samaritans were considered to be a mixed race by the religious Jews. A Samaritan would be the most unlikely person to stop and help a Jewish man. The word Samaritan does not refer to people who lived in a geographical place, but is the Hebraic-Aramaic word *Samarim*, which means “keeper of the law.”” **34.** *He stooped down and gave him first aid, pouring olive oil on his wounds, disinfecting them with wine, and bandaging them to stop the bleeding. Lifting him up, he placed him on his own donkey and brought him to an inn. 35.*

The next morning he took his own money from his wallet and gave it to the innkeeper with these words: ‘Take care of him un-til I come back from my journey. If it costs more than this, I will repay you when I return.’ **TPT note:** “Jesus is the Good Samaritan. He stoops down to touch us, heals us, lift us up, carry us on our journey, and pay our debts, and He promises to return and reward those who do His will.” **36.** *So, now, tell me, which one of the three men who saw the wounded man proved to be the true neighbor?”*

37. *The religious scholar responded, “The one who demonstrated kindness and mercy.” Jesus said, “So and do the same as he.”*

God’s Law of Attraction

Prov. 11:17 TPT *“A man of kindness attracts favor, while a cruel man attracts nothing but trouble.”* Here we see that **favor** has a cause or generating point: it is called **“kindness”** (**Gal. 5:22**).

SFLB WW: “Kindness is goodness in action, sweetness of disposition, gentleness in dealing with others, benevolence, affability. The word describes the ability to act for the welfare of those taxing your patience. The Holy Spirit removes abrasive qualities from the character of one under His control.”

The Good Samaritan had no natural affinity to the wounded man. One was from Jewish descent; the other was what they derisively called a “half breed.” The other two men, a priest and a Levite had an affinity to the wounded man, but they moved to the other side of the road, distancing themselves from his need. I believe they were justifying their behavior by thinking that this man might be pretending to be wounded, and ready to pounce on them. They couldn’t possibly take the risk. But the third man, the Good Samaritan, “saw” the same thing that they did, however, he had a different mindset than they. Without fear or prejudice, he saw a fellow man in dire straits, possibly going to die if left unattended. As a moral agent under God, how could he possibly do what the others had done – look the other way & move along, acting like “there’s nothing to see here.” **Our “neighbor” therefore is the person we can relate in time of need or whatever the case may be.**

Welsh counselor **Selwyn Hughes**, in his book The Seven Laws of Spiritual Success, shares about Law #5 “Give Yourself to Others.” Selwyn says, “The term “paradigm shift’ I understand was coined by Thomas S. Khun, a Harvard professor, and appears in his book The Structure of Scientific Revolutions.

“In that highly-acclaimed volume, Khun show how every scientific success required a break with old paradigms, old ways of thinking. Copernicus, he says, created a paradigm shift when he claimed that the old theory of Ptolemy that the earth was the centre of the universe was untrue.

“The truth is, said Copernicus, the sun is the centre of the universe. Suddenly, everything looked different. Later Newton came along with his model of the universe and thinking on this subject changed again.

“And later still, Einstein, with his relativity paradigm, produced yet another shift.

“Who will come along next, I wonder?”

“Our paradigms – the framework we use for thinking about issues – are the sources of our attitudes, our behavior and the way we relate to others.”

SPIRITUAL REVOLUTION

Selwyn experienced a paradigm shift which took place in his own life a number of years ago – a shift which brought about a great spiritual revolution for him.

It happened as he was reading a small book on theology entitled *Everlasting God* by **D. Broughton Knox**. Hughes read:

*“The Father loves the Son and gives Him everything. The Son always does that which pleases the Father, The Spirit takes of the things of the Son and shows them to us. He does not glorify Himself. We learn from the Trinity that **relationship is the essence of reality** and therefore the essence of our existence, and we also learn that the way this relationship should be expressed is by concern for others. Within the Trinity itself there is a concern by the persons of the Trinity for one another.”*

Selwyn goes on to say, “That statement hit me with such spiritual fore that it put me off my food for three days and has changed my whole view of God and people. I have no hesitation in saying that I affected my preaching, teaching, and writing more than any other insight I have known.

“Every part of that statement was powerful, but what impacted me most was the illuminating sentence:

We learn from the Trinity that relationship is the essence of Reality...and we also learn that the way this relationship should be expressed is by concern for others.”

“You see, I had always been taught that truth was the essence of reality and ever since my days as a student I had always been on a search for truth, believing that to be the most important thing in the universe.

“Now here comes a theologian who says the essence of reality is not truth but relationships. He is not minimizing the importance

of truth but pointing out that while truth is a reality – an important reality – ultimate truth is all about relationships.

The other thing I saw from the powerful sentence was that the energy which pulses at the heart of the Trinity is other-centered.

“...the way this relationship should be expressed is by concern for others. Within the Trinity itself is a concern by the persons of the Trinity for one another.”

As Selwyn thought deeply about these words, he began to realize that “the Trinity may well be motivated by other-centeredness, but the motivation for my own life was one of sinful self-interest, the itch to prove that I could do it, the bid for attention, the desire for approval and so on.

As a result of seriously contemplating Mr. Knox’s powerful paragraph, Selwyn began experiencing deep changes. “My fierce tendency to compete with others began to diminish; my insecure need to be recognized started to fade; my desire to win, always win, also began to fade and I came to see as Arthur Gordon put it that, “As long as you feel you are serving others, you do the job well...when you are concerned with helping yourself you do it less well.”

“I can recall the precise date when this paradigm shift took place and from that moment to this I have endeavored with God’s help to keep ever before me that I am here on the earth not to serve myself but to serve others.”

Perhaps today is the day when we’ll experience **a breakthrough in delay** that has kept us from experiencing the passion of God and the enjoyment of a sense of fulfillment in doing His will. Let’s open ourselves up further to the concept that Truth is a person: in **John 14:6** Jesus said, “*I am the Way, the Truth (or Reality) and the Life. No man comes to the Father but by Me.*” That means that Jesus the Truth leads us into relationship with the Holy, Omnipotent, Sovereign, Loving God Who Created all things for mankind to enjoy. Let’s not only teach others about

the Truth, but love them as He first loved us and behold them come to a loving reconciled relationship with Him, too!

To have a paradigm shift we need to deal with strongholds in our thinking. The definition of a **stronghold** by Argentine Evangelist **Ed Silvano** is, “A mindset impregnated with hopelessness whereby a person believes things to be true that are contrary to the will of God.”

We need a paradigm shift away from fear, especially the fear of death, that causes us to self-protect, live in anxiety, & limit our love, like it did to the religious Priest & Levite, who may have feared contamination by touching a bloody non-Jewish person. The truly free person who fully impressed Jesus was the Good Samaritan who acted in Christ’s stead on behalf of the victim.

In **Luke 12:22-26 TPT** Jesus addresses what troubles so many – worry, anxiety. *“Jesus taught His disciples, saying, “Listen to Me. Never let anxiety enter your hearts. Never worry about any of your needs, such as food or clothing. **23.** For your life is infinitely more than just food or the clothing you wear. **24.** Take the care-free birds as your example. Do you ever see them worry? They don’t grow their own food or put it in a storehouse for later. Yet God takes care of every one of them, feeding each of them from His love and goodness. Isn’t your life more precious to God than a bird? Be carefree in the care of God. **25.** Does worry add anything to your life? Can it add one more year, or even one day? **26.** So if worrying adds nothing, but actually subtracts from your life, why would you worry about God’s care for you?”*

God has promised to be our provider in Christ Jesus. His care is legendary and draws faith out of us, His people. Though we experience trials and tribulations in this life, He is always there!

Let your relationship with Jesus shift your paradigm today from worry to peace, from anxiety to joy and trust, so that you can fully do the will of your Father in Heaven.

Luke 12:27-32 *“Think about the lilies. They grow and become beautiful, not because they work hard or strive to clothe themselves. Yet not even Solomon, wearing his kingly garments of splendor, could be compared to a field of lilies. 28. If God can clothe the fields and meadows with grass and flowers, can’t He clothe you as well, O struggling one with so many doubts (or “little faiths”)? 29. I repeat it: Don’t let worry enter your life. Live above the anxious cares about your personal needs. 30. People everywhere seem to worry about making a living, but your Heavenly Father knows your every need and will take care of you. 31. Each and every day He will supply your needs as you seek His kingdom passionately, above all else. 32. **So don’t ever be afraid, dearest friends! Your loving Father joyously gives you His kingdom realm with all its promises!**”*

SFLB note: *“Therefore (v. 22 NKJV) connects these verses with the teaching concerning covetousness. A proper attitude toward material things, based on a simple trust in a caring father, frees one from a nagging anxiety about the physical necessities of life. Worry is useless because life is in God’s hands; because God’s concern for transitory (passing) things indicates His greater care for His highest creation; and because God knows our needs better than we do. Therefore, we should not allow material concerns to distract us from our primary aim of seeking the total lordship of God (v. 31). Provision in life follows those whose priorities are concerned with God’s ways, work, and will – the rule of His (kingdom).”*

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus reveals not only who is our neighbor, but also what love looks like! In Selwyn’s paradigm shift, we discover that **Relationship is The Essence of Reality** instead of seeking truth alone as an end in itself. **Let’s**

**ask the Lord for a paradigm shift of our own bringing
freedom.**