

Title: Go and do likewise - Luke 10:25-37

Main Idea: How you love your neighbor shows what you believe about God, not what you think they deserve.

Point One: Who Is My Neighbor

Explanation

The lawyer asks Jesus how to inherit eternal life. Jesus affirms the summary of the law: love God fully and love your neighbor as yourself. The lawyer tries to limit responsibility by asking who his neighbor is.

Subpoints

- Love of God and love of neighbor summarize the entire Old Testament law.
- The debate in Jesus' day was about the boundaries of neighbor.
- The priest and Levite see the wounded man but intentionally avoid him.
- Their excuses could be fear, inconvenience, assumptions, or lack of interest.
- Apathy leads to the same result as hostility.
- The Samaritan, despite deep cultural hostility, moves toward the wounded man.
- His compassion is expressed in giving time, resources, and care.

Jesus shows that anyone in need whom we can help is our neighbor.

Point Two: How You Love Your Neighbor Reveals What You Believe About God

Explanation

Our flesh wants to shrink the category of neighbor, but the way we treat people in need reflects our understanding of God's love for us. Jesus loved us when we were helpless in sin, and our love for others flows out of that grace.

Subpoints

- Sin causes us to justify inaction and limit who we see as a neighbor.
- How we love others is shaped by how we experience God's love for us.
- Jesus is the true good neighbor who came to us when we were spiritually broken.
- He was lied to, rejected, beaten, and yet he gave himself for us.
- Our love for others comes from gratitude for Christ's love.
- Loving difficult people will be costly and at times abused, but obedience is measured by faithfulness, not outcomes.
- Following Christ requires moving toward people our flesh prefers to avoid.

Devotion One Luke 10:29 “But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’”

Reflection The lawyer knew the commands. He knew that loving God and loving his neighbor summed up the entire law. What he did not want was the weight of that command placed too broadly on his life. His instinct was to shrink the definition of neighbor so the command would feel manageable. We often do the same. We create categories of “my people” and “not my people.” We find ways to excuse ourselves from inconvenient love. Jesus refuses to let the lawyer limit the call. Instead of a boundary, Jesus offers a story that removes all boundaries. Anyone in need whom we can help is our neighbor.

Challenge Ask God to reveal where you have drawn lines he never drew. Pray for a heart willing to see every person in need as a neighbor.

Devotion Two Luke 10:33-34 “But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was, and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds...”

Reflection The Samaritan does what the priest and Levite refuse to do. He moves toward need. His compassion becomes action. He gives his time, his supplies, his money, and even his comfort. Neighbor love is rarely simple. It will cost you schedules, energy, and sometimes emotional pain. But this is exactly the movement Jesus wants for his people. Not to ask, “How little can I do,” but “How can I reflect the heart of God in this moment.” Loving our neighbor is not about convenience. It is about obedience. It is about letting compassion interrupt our plans so that God’s love can flow through us.

Challenge Ask God for one clear opportunity this week to cross the road toward someone in need, even if it interrupts your plans.

Devotion Three Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Reflection Jesus is the true good neighbor. While we were spiritually broken and unable to help ourselves, he came to us. He rescued us when we were undeserving. He gave his own life so we could live. This is why our love for others cannot be based on what they deserve. If Christ loved you when you were an enemy, how could you not extend grace to those who frustrate you or fail you? Real neighbor love flows from grateful hearts that remember the kindness of Christ. The more you meditate on his love for you, the more freely you will love others.

Challenge Spend time thanking Jesus for the moments he moved toward you when you were spiritually helpless. Let that gratitude shape how you treat the next person who crosses your path.