

Love People Like Jesus Loved People  
Luke 10:25-37

Jesus established the church as the hope of the world. Jesus' story is the response to the question, "*Who is our neighbor?*"

It is a story of hate and prejudice. It is a story of love and mercy. It is a story of indifference and unusual compassion. We wish it meant we get to choose "my neighbors."

What It Really Means: "My neighbor" is anyone God brings across my path. Jesus spent most of His time with the last, the least, and the lost. He wanted us to know that EVERYONE matters to God. This lawyer was an expert in the Old Testament law.

"Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Luke 10:25

How can I go to heaven when I die? This is the greatest question that must be answered in every life. We all have to settle the issue of where we will spend eternity. The lawyer quoted Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18.

Jesus said, "Here's what the law says: First of all, love God with everything you have, and number two, love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

Jesus said you have to put God first. You have to put people in front of yourself. Maybe he loved God but struggled to love people, so Jesus told a story.

"Do this, and you will live." Luke 10:28

The problem is, we can't do it. We can't live this way. We can't love the Lord the way we ought to love Him. We can't love our neighbor the way we ought to love them.

"And who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:29

Jesus tells the story to show us how we should relate to other people.

## 1. THE ADVERSITY OF LIFE

"*A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho.*" Luke 10:30

His name is not given because he represents all of us. The Jericho road was a very narrow pathway. It was so narrow that only about one person could walk, and it wound down the 17 miles from Jerusalem to Jericho dropping 3300 feet. Jerusalem is high in elevation, and Jericho is down at the level of the Dead Sea.

"*He was attacked by robbers.*" Luke 10:30

The road that was filled with robbers, thieves, and muggers twisted and turned with cliffs above and rocks on the side. There were many places where muggers could hide and jump out and suddenly attack some unsuspecting traveler and do great harm to him.

The man started on his journey, and everything was going as he had planned. The Jericho Road became known as "The Bloody Way." Something unexpected happened, and suddenly his life was shattered. Sometimes we encounter unfortunate circumstances along life's journey. So often the trials of life come unexpectedly. Our day can begin with sunshine, and a phone call can replace that sunshine with dark clouds. He goes on a short

journey and almost loses his life. We are living in a dangerous world. It reminds us that life is a dangerous journey.

He started out his journey and everything was going just fine. He had planned what he was going to do when he got to Jericho. He may have been on a business trip, or maybe he was going to visit some relatives or even go on vacation. Something happened that would change his life forever. He fell among thieves. There was nothing he did to deserve that. There was nothing he did to provoke that. It was just that he was traveling a dangerous highway.

You may be traveling down the road of life, and everything is going smoothly. You may have plans about what you are going to do tomorrow, but the Bible says *“You do not know what tomorrow may bring.”* James 4:14

The man suddenly had his life shattered. He suddenly had something happen to him that he had only read in a newspaper. Muggings happen to other people, not to him.

We look at some of the things that happen, we hear the news on television, and we think, “That is never going to happen to my family, that is never going to happen to me, that is never going to take place in my life, that is never going to be anybody that I know,” and this man felt exactly the same way. But suddenly, unexpectedly, danger came. And you know danger lurks all about us.

There are people all around us on the highway of life because they have been wounded domestically. Some have gone through divorce or are in the process of one. Your marriage is on the rocks and you have a wounded heart, a broken heart. Some have been wounded economically. We have many single mothers who are raising a family by themselves without any other economic assistance.

There are people who are wounded emotionally. Their lives have been shattered by some kind of rejection, and today their emotions have been turned upside down. The world has crumbled in around them.

Jesus said, *“In this life you will have tribulations.”* John 16:33

Job said *“Man who is born of woman is a few days and they are filled with trouble.”* Job 14:1

All around us, people are wounded, are bleeding, and are hurting.

All around us are people who are hurting spiritually, people who have been devastated by sin and evil. The devil is a thief and a robber. The devil wants to steal your joy, he wants to steal your happiness, he wants to steal your usefulness, and he wants to steal your potential. The devil wants to beat you up and leave you wounded and crippled along the road of life until you feel you are no good to yourself, to God, or anybody else.

The robbers’ philosophy was, “What’s yours is mine, and I’ll take it.” They are like the devil. He wants to steal your joy and your happiness. He wants to steal your usefulness and your potential.

He is totally helpless. He is defenseless. He is hurting.

He was beaten, robbed, stripped of his clothes, and left to die. He’s lying there on the side of the road, suffering from his personal loss. He was beaten so badly that the Bible says he had to be carried on the back of another man’s animal.

## 2. THE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE LEAST

- Those Who AVOID People

*“A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.”* Luke 10:31-32

The priest has been to Jerusalem and has just performed all the duties of the priest - offering the sacrifices. He has probably just preached a sermon on the love of God. When the priest saw him, he moved over to the other side. He's on his way from church, and he's been preaching a sermon on loving the Lord. Nobody was helped by the people who had been at God's House. They went from walking around in God's House to walking away from a hurting life.

The Priest's attitude was, “I don't want to get involved.”

*“So too a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side of the road.”* Luke 10: 32

The Levite also came by this man. Who were the Levites? They were those who were not preachers but assisted in the worship in the temple and in the ministry of the sacrifices. He would be like a deacon or a Sunday School teacher or faithful church member. Verse 32 says he came along and *“when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.”* He is better than the preacher, at least he looked at him! The preacher just sort of glanced at him and kept on going.

The Levite looked at him and became totally indifferent and totally insensitive to the needs of a person who is hurting and bleeding, wounded and dying. He got close enough to see his wounds and know he was hurt, but leaving him was easier than helping him. There is no compassion in him whatsoever.

What happens when we go to church? Real ministry demands that we go outside. Ministry requires you to get your hands dirty. According to Jewish Law, people are to stay at least six feet from the dead. The Priest and Levite's philosophy is, “What's mine is mine, and I'll keep it.”

These aren't bad people, they're just busy people.

### 3. THE ACTION OF LOVE

Love is a compassion that feels and acts.

*“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, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.”* Luke 10:33-34

- Those Who ASSIST People

Their philosophy is, “What's mine is yours, and I will share it.”

*“Jesus was moved with compassion on them because they were like sheep that didn't have a shepherd.”* Mark 6:34

Do you have any feeling for people?

*“He went to this man and bandaged his wounds.”* Luke 10:34

We want to pay somebody else to do the loving for us.

- Love is caring that helps.

The oil would soothe, and the wine would cleanse.

*“Put him on his own donkey, carried him to the inn, left two days of wages, and said, Take care of him.”* Luke 10:34

- Love is a commitment that costs.

*“He said, ‘When I return, I’ll reimburse you for any extra expense.’”* Luke 10:35

*“But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him.”* Luke 10:33

For the first time in the story, somebody feels compassion for the person who is in need. The whole story turns on the point of compassion—two who did not, and the one who does. Biblical compassion always acts. The Bible does not know of a compassion that just feels sorry for someone and doesn’t do something about it.

*“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.”* Psalm 103:8

*“The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. The Lord is good to all, His mercies are over all His works.”* Psalm 145:8-9

We were all helpless, beaten and bruised, and left half-dead by sin.

Jesus came and paid for us a price that we could not pay when He shed His blood on the cross of Calvary. There is a better way to live, and it is the way of love.

The Samaritan is the hero of this story, and it must have angered the Jewish leaders because they hated the Samaritans. The Jews and the Samaritans had no dealings. A Samaritan was not even allowed in the temple in Jerusalem, and yet, here comes a Samaritan along to be the hero of the story, to be the one who helped this man, and Jesus holds him up as an example.

- Compassion Feels

Jesus came to where we are. He had compassion on us. The Samaritan *“Went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own animal, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”*

- Compassion Heals

*“He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.”*

He went to him. That is what Jesus did for us. We were wounded, bleeding, and helpless with no strength and no life. When we could not get to where He was, He came to us. He shed His blood on Calvary. When I could not go to where He was, He came to me.

- Compassion Helps

Jesus said, *“Go and do likewise.”* Go where the hurting people are. It was a compassion that feels, but it was also a compassion that helps. The Bible says he took oil and wine and poured it into his wounds, the two antibiotics of the ancient world. He poured them into the wound to begin the healing process. When you and I were lost without Christ, dying and one breathe away from hell, Jesus came, and with the wine of His blood, He forgave our sins and with the oil of His Spirit, He gave us the life of the new birth. That is what people need,

and if we don't give that to them, who will? Only believers can give people the wine of His blood and the oil of His Spirit.

This is a picture of salvation. This is what Jesus did for us. He came to us. Jesus took our place that we might take His place. Jesus became the Son of Man that we might become the sons of God. Jesus picked us up, and He took our place. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. He was wounded, and He bled and suffered, and He died on the cross in order that you and I might become children of God.

And the Samaritan said, "When I come back, I will pay you anything else that he owes." Jesus said, "I am going to give you the wine of My blood, the oil of My spirit, and I am going to take care of all of your needs. And one day I am going to come back again." The Samaritan said, "I am committed to you. I am committed to this man I have picked up out of the ditch. And one day I am going to come back again for him and I am going to receive him unto myself."

There was a businessman who, after he became wealthy, didn't forget God. He remembered how God had blessed him. He gave all the glory to God for his success. And three ladies in his church were involved in the building of a children's hospital. And they said to that man, why don't you give some money to help establish a room in the hospital? We will name the room after you. A lot of children will be helped and blessed. We would like for you to be a part. He agreed. He gave the money and when the children's wing was finished, the children's room was finished, they came to him one day and said there is a little girl using your room. She is crippled. The doctors don't know how much they can help her but she is very lonely. She is an orphan. She doesn't have anybody and we would like for you to come and just get to know her because you furnished this place. We know that it would mean a lot to her to meet you. He agreed to come and he met that little girl. She just reached out and grabbed the strings of his heart. This little crippled girl and he became friends. He began to visit her regularly. And one day when he visited her, the doctor was in the room. And the doctor said we have done a lot of research on this little girl's case and we believe that if we could do a certain kind of surgery there is a chance that she could walk again. He said you do the surgery and I will pay for it. They did the surgery on that little girl. And when the surgery was over, one day he came to visit the little girl. She had seen him so much she started calling him Uncle George. She said Uncle George, I want you to sit over there in the chair and close your eyes. I want to show you what I can do. The little girl put her legs out of the bed and stood up on the floor. She said Uncle George open your eyes. And she began to walk awkwardly over to the chair where he was sitting. She fell into his arms and they both were weeping, tears flowing down her face and his face. And she said Uncle George, I can't ever tell you what you mean to me, but I want to sing you a song that tells what you mean to me. He said okay honey and he dried the tears from his eyes. And she began to sing "*You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. You make me happy when skies are gray. You will never know how much I love you; please don't take my sunshine away.*"

When you pick somebody up out of that ditch, when they are able to walk again spiritually, when their heart has been mended, they are going to say, "You are my sunshine." People are going to look at this church and say, "That church is a light. It shows you the way. They cared for me when I was wounded and bleeding because it is a church that wants to do what Jesus would do."