

Sunday, November 19, 2023 | The Road to Redemption

Week 5 | Luke 10:25-37 | “The Good Neighbor”

Last week, we talked about *joy*. Upon their return, the seventy-two disciples were overjoyed at their *success*! There is not even a hint of negativity. Should the disciples labor in God's harvest God's way, they should not be surprised when they actually *succeed*. Through Jesus Christ, believers are champions. And as such, even on our worst day, we ought to be joyful knowing that our names are written in heaven. **Obedience to Christ's sending results in a joyful returning.**

Today, we'll be talking about how to be a good neighbor. As Christians, we are not allowed to mind our own business. To be clear, we're not supposed to be busybodies or gossips either (cf. Prov. 20:19; Eph. 4:29). But whenever we see a genuine need, we ought to meet the needs of our neighbor. Even if that neighbor is a complete stranger, we are never more like Christ than we show compassion to someone down on their luck. A good indication of how much we love God is to gauge how well we love our neighbor. Do the needs of others move us? Or are we indifferent and apathetic?

Make no mistake: we prove our allegiance to Christ by helping others. So much so that a lack of charity demonstrates we, in fact, do not love God. It is impossible to love God and hate our neighbor (cf. 1 Jn. 4:20). You cannot be a good Christian and be a bad neighbor.

The lawyer poses two questions:

i. A theological question: “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (vs. 25-28)

READ: Luke 10:25-28 (ESV)

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷ And he answered, “You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

ii. An ethical question: “Who is my neighbor?” (vs. 29-37)

READ: Luke 10:29-37 (ESV)

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

So, what's the takeaway?

The term "neighbor" is a behavioral trait, not a label.

Video Description

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SPEAKER: Ben Hyrne, Pastor

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Pastor's manuscript can be found here: <https://docdro.id/RdSTAT3>

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