

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Luke 10:25-37
July 19, 2015

Love your neighbor for a fuller life in Christ.

- ❖ Here we see Jesus reaching out in love to someone trying to entrap him.
 - ♦ The occasion is clear - even if the timing isn't clear
 - ♦ An expert in the Books of Moses seeks to embarrass Jesus
 - His mindset and orientation: Law! It's all about Law - doing right
 - This expert did recognize the essence of God's will for us.
 - What he missed: *doing* and *inherit* don't go together.
 - ♦ *Whole heart, whole soul, all your strength, whole mind* = every fiber of your being - all the time from beginning to end!
 - The only One who has done that was Jesus!
 - ♦ Embarrassed to have asked about what he knew - a second question
 - Who's the *neighbor* the LORD commands me to love.
- ❖ Jesus' account of *The Good Samaritan*.
 - ♦ Jesus didn't give it this title. Nor does he call it a Parable. It's real!
 - ♦ Recall the prejudice and contempt between Jew and Samaritan
 - ♦ The religious *people of God* avoid the problem - the *half dead* man
 - *I did my duty to God. It's not my responsibility.*
 - *He's half dead. If he dies on me, I become unclean. Do you know what that means for my family and me?*
 - ♦ Imagine if one or both of these men heard Jesus tell this story!
 - Isn't this our story too? Turning our back on the needy, justifying ourselves for having done enough for God. Justifying excuses
 - ♦ The essence of *loving your neighbor* = *showing mercy to the needy*
 - The expert in the law saw it and stated it clearly.
 - *Loving your neighbor* = compassion and care for those God puts in front of you - in your path
 - It starts in your home, family, neighborhood, into community, work place, places you travel in life

- God's will: a **heart** for the needy - Not cold and callous
 - ♦ God wants us to have a heart like his that saved us.
 - ♦ A heart like God's can't help but want to take action.
- The 2 types of humanitarians
 - ♦ Humanitarians who don't know Jesus, but reflect a wisdom and a remnant of the image of God. They're a blessing to people.
 - Their love for their neighbor is a high quality human love.
 - They do **not** serve God with their whole being for they do not know or worship him. Their motivation is anything but God.
 - ♦ The believer loves because God loved him first.
 - This crafts a new character motivated by love.
 - We're called to love from faith's new mindset/perspective
 - We do it for God, being his children - Christ-like
- ❖ Our challenges in loving our neighbor
 - ♦ Dismissing this calling: *I can't do it perfectly. Besides, we aren't saved by doing.*
 - That doesn't change that it is God's will for us.
 - Faith knows sin is bad and God's will is good. Loving my neighbor is part of the full life in Jesus. *Do this and you will live.*
 - When unbelievers are *better* humanitarians than believers:
 - ♦ Unbelievers: driven to *find meaning* & by *guilt* - powerful drivers
 - ♦ We have a higher motive and ability.
 - When they're more humanitarian: It's a splash in our face.
 - ♦ But how can I - when God puts so many needy neighbors before me?
 - God doesn't call to you to solve neediness. **He calls you to love.**
 - Balance the call to help the needy among all other callings to love.
 - Love doesn't give in to what's asked for. Love acts mindful of the real root of needs.

To use this account to merely teach that we can't earn eternal life by what we do - only presents half of Jesus' message. Jesus contrasts the self-focused life of a sin mindset with the fuller life of faith with a love mindset. Living faith in Christ loves to love.

Love your neighbor for a fuller life in Christ.