

Everybody knows who their neighbors are. They're the people who live next door, around the corner, or across the street. But a story Jesus told leads to a different definition of neighbor. Our neighbor is anyone who has a need which we are able to meet – with love and compassion.

- To the Lawyer, love was just a subject to explore – Lk 10:25-29
  - To the Thieves, love was a soul to exploit – Lk 10:30
  - To the Priest, love was a situation to evade – Lk 10:31
  - To the Levite, love was someone to examine – Lk 10:32
- I. To the Samaritan, love was sympathy to express – Lk 10:33-37 A Samaritan, a man despised by the Jews, saw the wounded traveler as an opportunity to express love; he saw the man as his neighbor.
- A. His love was displayed by compassion – Jesus calls us to leave our comfort zones and go to uncomfortable places in order that our eyes might be opened to the needs of our neighbors.
  - B. His love was demonstrated by contract – He demonstrated his compassion by investing himself in the needs of the stranger.
  - C. His love was delivered with care
  - D. His love was documented by cost – the Samaritan took money out of his own pocket and paid for the wounded man to stay in an inn. There is always a price when we exercise love. The Christian life, if it is going to be lived in love, is going to cost. Some has said that it doesn't cost anything to become a Christian, but it cost everything to be a Christian. Love without sacrifice is probably not genuine love at all.
- II. To the Christian, love is something to demonstrate
- A. The secret to loving is not found in religion
    - 1. We are not followers of Jesus because we take up a seat in a particular building on Sunday mornings. We are followers of Jesus if we hear His Word and obey it.
  - B. The secret to loving is not found in rules
    - 1. Jesus' point is not, "who qualifies to be loved." Rather, it is, "who qualifies as a loving person?"
  - C. The secret to loving is found in a relationship
    - 1. Because Jesus has been the "good Samaritan" to us, we can be a loving neighbor to those who are in need whom we encounter in life. Jesus calls us to leave our security, our schedules, and our safety, and stop along our way to minister to those who need our help.

Read: Matt 9:35-38

- Translate "weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd" into your own words. What was it about the people that prompted compassion from Jesus (vs 36)

Read: I Cor 13:1-13

- In what way do verses 1-3 describe the lawyer, priest, and Levite in the context of the Good Samaritan story?