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SERMON-BASED STUDY: THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-37, 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."*

[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."

Notes:

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QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 What does the phrase "*desiring to justify himself*" imply about the lawyer's heart posture and his understanding of the law?

2 How does Jesus define a “neighbor?” How does this challenge the way you think of that word? How does that challenge the way you choose who is worthy of your time, resources and compassion?

3 What is mercy? How did the Samaritan demonstrate mercy to the injured man? Why do you think the Samaritan did this?

DIGGING DEEPER

A ***Galatians 2:15-16, ESV*** *– [15] We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; [16] yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.*

2 Timothy 1:9-10, ESV *– [9] who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, [10] and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,*

4 Paul states that no one is justified by works of the law. If the law cannot save us, what do you think its actual purpose is in the Christian life?

5 Salvation is given because of His own purpose and grace, not because of our works. Why is it so hard for humans to accept a rescue that we cannot earn or contribute to?

6 If Jesus already accomplished the rescue, what role do “*works*” play in the Christian life after we are saved?

B ***2 Corinthians 5:14-16, ESV*** *– [14] For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; [15] and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. [16] From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.*

1 John 4:19-21, ESV *– [19] We love because he first loved us. [20] If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. [21] And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

7 How does shifting your allegiance to Jesus change the lens through which you look at a difficult neighbor, coworker or other person?

8 In what ways does belonging to Christ feel less like a heavy duty and more like an irresistible outward-flowing current?

9 Why is it vital to realize that our capacity to help others does not originate from our own willpower or emotional battery, but from His prior action?

TAKING IT HOME

This week we were reminded that we are not justified by the law or our works, but by the grace of God through Jesus. As Christ followers, our natural response should be to extend mercy and grace to others. What "neighbors" has God placed in your path? What is one practical, concrete action you can take this week to show mercy to someone who cannot repay you or who comes from a different background?

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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