

Weekender Slide

Luke Slide

Urban legend from the early 20th century-

Woman goes to Europe “Found necklace: Price \$75,000”

His reply was supposed to read.

No, Price too high

No price too high

Title Slide- “No Price Too High: How Uneasy Obligation Becomes Unafraid Overflow”- Luke 10:25-42

Talk about VISION: (The next 3 weeks we’ll spend time in the Scripture understanding this and hearing AND doing more with what God is calling us to.

Raising up humble leaders with joy. Unafraid. Overflowing. Sent.

Last week: A Foundation of Repentance-
(Some of you from last week know that the Lord is calling you to baptism)

We’re back in Luke today- and what I want you to see today is the difference between a life of uneasy obligation...and unafraid overflow.

Luke 10:25-42

25 Then an expert in the law stood up to test him, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? ”

Expert Lawyer motivation- this man that studies the Jewish law is not coming to Jesus curious- he’s coming to test him.

He is coming to Jesus AS Jesus’ authority. As the one who has to VET whether Jesus is a legit teacher.

Its like if a 5 year old said “I’m really good at algebra” and skeptically you looked at him and said “What’s the quadratic formula?”-

Its not curiosity- its an expression of your authority and skepticism.

INHERIT- klaro-nomeo Klaros- Lot, portion, share. Nomos- Law
Literally “My portion according to the law”

So this is a LAW expert testing Jesus about what the LAW says about GETTING ETERNAL LIFE THE LAWFUL WAY. Jesus “What does the Law say about how I get my share of the good coming to me? He’s not asking because he’s curious- he’s asking because he wants to prove whether Jesus is a fraud or not.

26 “What is written in the law? ” he asked him. “How do you read it? ”

This is a classic question for Rabbis. People relied on Rabbis to summarize the law. So Jesus turns the question back on him. So the lawyer summarizes...

27 He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.”

Now- I wonder sometimes if Luke left out some arguing or persuading on Jesus’ part or something- cuz this guy just immediately falls for it. I mean- you know you’re giving him the answer right?

28 “You’ve answered correctly,” he told him. “Do this and you will live.”

29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Now the tables have completely turned. This lawyer started out as the authority testing Jesus...Jesus was the one who was supposed to justify himself as a teacher ...and now for some reason...this expert is standing in front of Jesus thinking- “I’ve got to prove myself to him.

He wants to whittle it down so it’s reasonable and doable.

I wonder if guilt started creeping up on him. I wonder if he knows he hasn’t lived up to this.

ILLUS: Lady MacBeth- murder plot to get her husband the throne.

She sleepwalks- soliloquy- **“Out, out spot- Here’s the smell of blood still. All the sweet perfumes of Arabia could not sweeten this little hand.**

The expert is now looking for a way to sweeten his hand. Has he just had an encounter with someone that he treated like less than human? Who is he hating? He’s looking for Jesus to give him a loophole. He’s looking for justification for his hate. He wants to love some people..but not others. He needs a limit on neighboring.

30 Jesus took up the question and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down that road.

When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

Notice that Jesus uses a Priest and Levite. They are people who have obligations to help. Both of them see the man, but don't stop. They are on their way to Jerusalem... and no doubt they are headed to the temple- where they have obligations. And if they help this man...his blood will be on their hands. They'll have to go through ritual cleaning. In other words- they are viewing their lives in terms of obligations. Things they are REQUIRED to do to save face. To keep respect. And the choice they make is to keep the obligations they have that inconvenience them the least.

33 But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. 34 He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him. When I come back I'll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.'

Ok first- why a Samaritan.

Samaritans and Jews had a bitter rivalry. They hated each other. Nothing would be more challenging to this Jewish Lawyer's worldview than to see a Samaritan with a higher moral standard than a Jewish Priest and Levite.

This would have been the most difficult person for him to see as a NEIGHBOR. One that he excluded.

The other thing to notice here is how far the Samaritan goes beyond OBLIGATION. This is not some uneasy moral obligation. UGGGH! I know I'm required to help...but I'm gonna hold my nose while doing this. This is real compassion and care. He goes the extra mile.

36 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? "

37 "The one who showed mercy to him," he said.

Then Jesus told him, "Go and do the same."

There is only one answer that the Lawyer can give. Notice how he can't even bring himself to say "the Samaritan".

Jesus finishes with the ultimate insult. Go and be like a Samaritan. Instead of a person of uneasy obligation. Go find how to fearlessly overflow.

38 While they were traveling, he entered a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who also sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to what he said.

Sitting at the feet- this is more than just being present. This is the role of a disciple. A learner. Someone who was receiving Jesus' teaching.

Theme- Luke Loves the Ladies

He's put Mary in the position of a disciple

40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, and she came up and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to serve alone? So tell her to give me a hand."

This is another picture of uneasy obligation. Doesn't she know that the women should be in the kitchen doing the serving? Doesn't she know that hospitably is work? And you can see how much Martha is enjoying serving, right?

41 The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken away from her."

Jesus points out her anxiety...but she has lost focus on the one thing that's necessary. The one thing she can't lose... and that is receiving from the overflow of Jesus- the son of God.

TRANSITION: Now- I want to make 2 points for you to take home. Each one a reflection of that early 20th century telegraph misunderstanding.

1) "No! Price too high!" We limit God with who, when, & how much we'll give.

This is the uneasy obligation. We're not so different from that Jewish Lawyer. Trying to manipulate God and the scriptures to get him to allow us...to hate, to gossip about our neighbor instead of helping. To look down on people. To worship our status and money and also follow Jesus.

Who, Jesus, am I obligated to love?

When- Jesus- can I stop serving someone else and spend a little time on me?

How much- Jesus- what's the bare minimum I can give, and serve, and love and still be a Xian?

This is the life of uneasy obligation. What you are really doing is looking at Jesus and saying NO! the price is too high. You can't possibly expect me to love others sacrificially and unconditionally.

You can't expect me to miss a football game.
You can't expect me to not have a vacation.
You can't expect me to talk to someone I don't know.
You can't expect me to give up the lifestyle I have.

What is the bare minimum I can do?

Jesus is pushing us PAST uneasy obligation by stretching our categories.

WHO- Martha woman, Jew Samaritan

WHEN- Priest, Levite, Martha- Inconvenient- puts me off my game.

He's pushing you past self-justification.

He's showing you that merely seeking self-justification or just having some moral sense of obligation will never be enough to love like God wants you to love. It has to go deeper. It has to come from a place that is no longer thinking about yourself.

How Much- Cost me too much

In Jesus, parable of the Good Sam... its on a particularly dangerous stretch of road. Everybody knew it. To help this man in the ditch is to put yourself in harm's way. It is to expose yourself to the risk of robbers.

Some of you are missing the work of God because you simply have limited the WHO, WHEN, and HOW MUCH that he actually is calling you to.

TRANSITION:

But you'll never get there by simply asking "Ok, what's the limit. If I haven't done enough yet...tell me when"

Something has to change at your core. REPENTANCE. You have to see how good he is.. you have to see how beautiful he is. How much he loves you.

2) "No price too high!" Unafraid Overflow only happens when you humbly receive from God.

You have to be motivated by grace- what you receive, not what you give or your self-justification.

Grace and Grit slide

Desperate- disputing and distracted miss.

Back to 2)

Love Lord-

“your religion is what you do with your solitude” - Archbishop William Temple.
where does your mind go naturally?

Where does it love to dwell? Abide? Nest? make its home?
Distraction, worry, anxiety, busyness?

“Meet the needs of your neighbor with all of the force, joy, speed, and power with which you meet your own. Be as happy for them when their needs are met as you would be for your own, because you put your happiness inside their happiness so that what makes you happy is what makes them happy.”- Tim Keller

The only way to do that...is to know that your deepest needs are met in a way that you can never run out of the love, the safety, the forgiveness, the hope that you are longing for and need deep down to your core.

Luke 7:39-49

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “This man, if he were a prophet, would know who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him — she’s a sinner! ”

40 Jesus replied to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.”

He said, “Say it, teacher.”

41 “A creditor had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Since they could not pay it back, he graciously forgave them both. So, which of them will love him more? ”

43 Simon answered, “I suppose the one he forgave more.”

“You have judged correctly,” he told him. 44 Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she, with her tears, has washed my feet and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but she hasn’t stopped kissing my feet since I came in. 46 You didn’t anoint my head with olive oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. 47 Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that’s why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little.” 48 Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

49 Those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this man who even forgives sins? ”

50 And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

TO overflow flow love- you have to know an unending source of love... you have to know the forgiveness of God in Jesus Christ.

On a cross- the guilty spot was removed from you when Jesus took the blame for your sin.

In a resurrection- you were justified- your morality never earned it...his love brought you back.

BAPTISM

LORDS SUPPER