

# **life group study guide**

## **ME TO WE: No Cheap Service**

**April 21, 2013**

The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:30-37

### Introduction

*Phil 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.*

“The parable about the Good Samaritan tells how a Samaritan rescues a man who is mugged and beaten by robbers on the Jericho—Jerusalem road, a notoriously dangerous stretch of highway. To understand how this story must have shocked the Jews, imagine someone telling a story about “The Good Nazi.” The Jews and Samaritans hated one another.” —Paul Miller, *Love Walked Among Us: Learning to Love Like Jesus*

This teaching of Jesus through the story of the Good Samaritan is one of the most well-known and praised stories in the Bible (by all religious teachers—and even religious skeptics). The U.S. legal system refers to “Good Samaritan laws” as those proving legal protection from those coming to the aid of someone in an emergency.

Like a good news reporter examining a story, we will evaluate things by asking the important questions, and seeking the answers in light of Scripture.

Read Luke 10:30-37

### Who?

Who is to help? This may be easiest one to answer and the hardest to apply, but we will start here.

- In verse 37—Who does Jesus assign the task of helping?
- How did this conversation arise? See the preceding verses (Luke 10:25-29.) What was the question Jesus was answering?

### Whom do we help?

“We instinctively tend to limit for whom we exert ourselves. We do it for people like us, and for people whom we like. Jesus will have none of that. By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbour. Not everyone is your brother or sister in faith, but everyone is your neighbour, and you must love your neighbour.” —Timothy Keller, *Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just*

What do these verses tell us about those we are to help?

- Matt 25:34-40
- Luke 14:12-14
- James 1:27 - Who are today's equivalent of the people James lists here?

The love (though service) to those **within the church** is a witness to the world:

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

## **life group study guide**

“In the same way, the New Testament envisions followers of Jesus living alongside one another for the sake of one another. The Bible portrays the church as a community of Christians who care for one another, love one another, host one another, receive one another, honor one another, serve one another, instruct one another, forgive one another, motivate one another, build up one another, encourage one another, comfort one another, pray for one another, confess sin to one another, esteem one another, edify one another, teach one another, show kindness to one another, give to one another, rejoice with one another, weep with one another, hurt with one another, and restore one another.” – David Platt, Follow Me

Love (through service) to those **outside the church**, identifies us as members of the Body of Christ.

Mark 9:41 For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.

These demonstrations of love bring glory to God—even from those yet to receive Christ.

Matt 5:16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

What are we to do?

- List all the ways the Samaritan in the story helped the man in need.
- What is the application for us today?

How do we help?

1. By having margin (margin defined as “an amount allowed beyond what is needed”).

“In college I took a social psychology course, something I thought useful for a career in advertising. Psychologists tested the story of the Good Samaritan. What they learned gives us reason to pause. The greatest determinant of who stopped to help the stranger in need was not compassion, morality, or religious creed. It was those who had the time. Makes me wonder if I have time to do good.” – Richard Paul Evans, Miles to Go

“No-one would remember the Good Samaritan if he'd only had good intentions; he had money as well.” – Margaret Thatcher

What are specific steps we can take to create margin in our lives to be better able to help others?

2. By being willing to be interrupted. Jesus' ministry was one of constantly being interrupted.

Are you willing to see interruptions as Divine appointments for ministry?

This also answers the “When?” question – Was this gift of service planned by the Samaritan? So when are we to help?

3. By being willing to sacrifice. David did not consider anything an offering to God if it did not cost him something personally (2 Sam 24:24)

Why?

“The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But...the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'” – Martin Luther King Jr.

1 Cor 13 is often referred to as the “love chapter” of the Bible.

- Read 1 Cor 13: 1-8 and contrast the ways the characteristics of love were demonstrated by the Samaritan and forgotten by the priest and the Levite.
- Why do you think Jesus chose a priest and a Levite as those unwilling to help?
- Do you think the priest and Levite would have considered themselves as “good” people?

# **life group study guide**



## Why Not?

In the end, this is a heart issue. All humans suffer from a tendency toward selfishness. What do these verses tell us about the results of selfishness?

- Romans 2:8
- James 3:16

## Application (and an appeal)

As the Director of the Kingsway Community Care Center (KCCC), I find it interesting Jesus told a story about someone in need of health care services for this teaching. Jesus gave us no indication the Samaritan had any medical training (although Luke, this gospel's writer, was a physician.)

KCCC, a medical and dental clinic serving our neighbors without insurance in the name of Christ, is currently in need of volunteers in many areas—two in particular:

1. Lawn care – we need someone to cut the grass, as needed, this spring through fall season.
2. Facility cleaning – four volunteers have cleaned the clinic each week for the past three years. They are no longer able to continue. They are willing to train their replacements. The task takes 45 minutes per week.

If any individuals, groups (Life Groups?) or couples have interest, please contact KCCC at [jpm@kingswaycarecenter.org](mailto:jpm@kingswaycarecenter.org)