



## Living in HD: Beyond Black & White – Luke 10:25-37

Love your neighbor as yourself.

When I read scripture and I come across sections where things happen that seem too simple, or as my daughter likes to say, "Duh," I often have to remind myself that I live in a time when I have the complete story. And the people living in the time the Bible was written, simply did not.

For me, accepting that Jesus is the Christ was not a great leap of faith. I can only imagine what it must have been like for those listening to Him as he preached. Then after his death, hearing of His resurrection. I can see where it would be hard to grasp who He was if you walked with Him and saw Him face to face.

And so it is with The Good Samaritan story and the question of who is my neighbor...

The Samaritan part of this story is pretty well known. I want to focus a bit on the first part, the rich man's question: "Who is my neighbor?"

On its surface it seems an easy question with an obvious answer. Living now, having the completed work of the Bible to guide us we see all those examples of Scripture. We see the encouragement, the admonishment. More importantly, we see a clearer picture of the rewards of the Christian life that others simply did not.

In comparison to Biblical times, we see so much clearly now.

But if that's so, why are we not constantly inviting our neighbors to church with us.

- Why are we not constantly in touch with them, to see how their lives are going, what they might need?
- Why are we not cutting someone's grass, fixing someone's car?
- Why are we not, not, not...
- *Why are we not?*

Is it because of fear? **Isaiah 41:10**

Is it because we don't want to be ridiculed? **Mark 8:38**

Is it because we don't think we will have the words? - **Exodus 4:10-11** - How did that work out for Moses?

Is it because we think someone else will do it? **Matthew 28:19**

# **life group study guide**

## **February 9, 2014**

I'm confident I've never been ashamed of the Gospel, of what I believe, but I know I've had moments of fear, of thoughts about what someone might think of me. Or that I wouldn't have the words to say or answer a question.

Why?

I have had moments where I thought that if I failed to properly answer a question, I'd do more harm than good in sharing. What about you? Have you been in that position? And if so, have you worked to overcome any perceived lack of knowledge?

Over the time we've been meeting together, we had told many stories of sharing the Gospel, much of it in time of needs, or from a distance, such as social media. Both are legitimate ways and times of sharing, but what about on a day-to-day basis.

How do we do on a daily basis of sharing at a moment's notice, when we see someone struggling emotionally? When we see someone digging for loose change at the coffee shop?

The world offers countless opportunities to share to be the Good Samaritan; to tell of the love of Christ.

What is it that we think the "professional Missionaries" are doing every day? Other than the fact that they have, in most cases moved out to a foreign land, what is the difference between what they are doing and what we, all of us, are called to do?

We always talk about going and visiting others, cutting someone's grass. Helping here or there... But are we?

How do we do that better? How do we do that more constitutently?

Where does the professional missionary's role end and ours begin? Where does the ministers or elders role end and ours begin?

Those are the tough questions for us. Things we've discussed regularly and here we are again...

In Matthew, Jesus talks about doing in secret, and then assures us that our Father who sees in secret... (Matt chapter 6)-

Well, I take that to heart, and there are things I have done that I don't wish to share, or discuss, and I'm sure most of us as Christians have those types of moments. So to ask someone to share something they've done recently is not something I'm fond of.

So, that being said, anyone should feel free to share ways they've found to be those loving neighbors, to reach out the world in need... And how others can follow, how we all can love our neighbor as ourselves...