

The 11th Commandment / Luke 10:25-37

In a world that often prioritizes self-interest, we're faced with a challenging truth: life would be so much easier if it weren't for other people. Yet, at the very core of our faith lies a commandment so crucial that it could be considered the 11th.

1. Learn to _____.

2. Learn to not be so _____.

3. Learn to _____.

- Most everyone you meet in life is _____ and _____.

- Every human being you encounter is made in the _____.

4. Learn to _____.

Scripture References (In order of use): Romans 3:20; John 4:9; Matthew 9:36; John 13:14-15
Referenced Works: The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott); Addresses on the Gospel of Luke (H. A. Ironside); The Gospel of Luke (William Barclay); Luke: Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Darrell Bock); Luke, Volume 2: Preaching the Word (Kent Hughes); The Message of Luke (Michael Wilcock)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a time when someone unexpectedly showed you kindness or compassion. How did it make you feel?
2. Read **Luke 10:25-37**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Why do you think it's sometimes difficult for Christians to love others, despite having the Holy Spirit?
4. Patrick mentioned that our biggest challenge is "to live personally what we say we believe intellectually." Can you relate to this? Share examples.
5. How might our religious practices or beliefs sometimes hinder us from showing love to others?
6. The Good Samaritan "saw with compassion." What are some practical ways we can cultivate a more compassionate view of others in our daily lives?
7. Discuss the statement: "Most everyone you meet in life is overburdened and under encouraged." How might this perspective change the way we interact with others?
8. How should understanding that "every human being we encounter is made in the image of God" impact the way we treat people, especially those we might disagree with or even dislike?
9. Patrick emphasized that love is a choice, not a feeling. How can we choose to love others even when we don't feel like it?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- This week, try to see people through the lens of compassion. Make a conscious effort to consider what burdens they might be carrying.
- Choose one person you struggle to like or get along with. Commit to praying for them daily and finding one way to show them kindness this week.
- Reflect on areas where you might be "hearing" God's Word for others instead of yourself. Write down one personal application from this sermon.
- Look for an opportunity to be a "Good Samaritan" to someone in need, even if it's inconvenient or outside your comfort zone.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1: Loving God and Neighbor

Reading: Luke 10:25-37, Deuteronomy 6:5, Leviticus 19:18
The greatest commandment encompasses both our love for God and our love for others. Today's reading reminds us that these two aspects of love are inseparable. Reflect on how your love for God influences your interactions with others. Are there areas in your life where you find it challenging to extend love to your "neighbors"? Ask God to soften your heart and open your eyes to see others as He sees them. Consider one practical way you can demonstrate love to someone in your community today, even if it takes you out of your comfort zone.

Day 2: Seeing with Compassion

Reading: Matthew 9:35-38, Colossians 3:12-14
Jesus saw the crowds with compassion, recognizing their confusion and helplessness. Today, challenge yourself to see others through His eyes. As you go about your day, consciously look beyond surface-level interactions and consider the burdens others might be carrying. Remember that most people are "overburdened and under encouraged." How might this perspective change your interactions? Pray for God to cultivate a heart of compassion within you, allowing you to respond to others with kindness, humility, and patience, just as Christ does for us.

Day 3: Faith in Action

Reading: James 2:14-26, Galatians 5:6
True faith is always accompanied by action. The Samaritan in Jesus' parable didn't just feel compassion; he acted on it. Today's readings challenge us to examine the connection between our beliefs and our behaviors. Are there areas in your life where your actions don't align with your professed faith? Ask God to reveal any disconnect between what you say you believe and how you live. Choose one specific way you can put your faith into action today, whether through an act of service, a word of encouragement, or a gesture of forgiveness.

Day 4: Overcoming Prejudice and Divisions

Reading: John 4:1-42, Galatians 3:26-28
The story of the Good Samaritan challenges our preconceptions about who our "neighbor" is. Jesus deliberately chose a Samaritan as the hero of His parable to confront the deep-seated prejudices of His audience. Reflect on your own life – are there groups of people you find difficult to love or accept? Ask God to reveal any hidden biases or prejudices in your heart. Pray for the courage to reach across divides, whether cultural, social, or ideological, to extend Christ's love to all. Consider how you might build a bridge with someone from a different background this week.

Day 5: The Cost of Discipleship

Reading: Luke 9:23-26, Philippians 2:3-8
Loving others as Christ loves us often comes at a personal cost. It requires us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus. Today's readings remind us that the Christian life is not meant to be easy, but it is deeply fulfilling. Reflect on areas where you might be holding back from fully following Christ out of fear, comfort, or self-interest. Ask God for the strength to embrace self-sacrifice and servanthood. How can you "consider others better than yourself" in a tangible way today? Remember, it's in losing our lives for Christ's sake that we truly find them..

DEACONS ON CALL

John Harris and Jason Swann

SCHEDULED EVENTS

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Wednesdays at Noon & 6:45 PM
- **FIRST KIDS:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM

