

Sermon: **“A True Neighbour” (Luke 10:25-37)**

Date: **June 11, 2017**

This week’s sermon and bible study is in Luke 10:25-37. Jesus is somewhere in the middle of his earthly ministry when he is confronted by a lawyer who tries to trap him by asking him this question: “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” This is an important question that every human being eventually asks in one way or another. Every culture in every country on every continent asks this question. The lawyer thought he was going to outwit Jesus by putting him to the test. Little did he know, Jesus was the one who wrote the Old Testament law! After some back and forth with the lawyer, Jesus ends up giving the parable of the Good Samaritan. As we study this passage, we will see that we have more in common with the half-dead man on the side of the road than we do with anyone else in this parable. There is only one Good Samaritan. There is only one who has fully loved God in thought, word and deed, and has fully loved their neighbor. There is only one person who saw us, his enemies, and was moved by love to come after us, wash us, and make us clean. His name is Jesus, the one true neighbor.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Luke 10:25-37 and ensure that you have listened to the sermon.
 - a) Verse 25 says that the lawyer tried to “put [Jesus] to the test.” What does this mean? What was the lawyer trying to do?
 - b) The lawyer asks the question, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Give some examples of how other religions might seek to answer this question.
 - c) What does Jesus do in response to this question? Why is this significant?
 - d) How does the Bible answer this question about inheriting eternal life?
 - e) Who is our neighbor? What do passages like Leviticus 19:18, Exodus 22:21, and Luke 6:27-36 teach us about who we ought to love?
 - f) What were the God-given roles of priests and Levites in Old Testament worship?
 - g) The priest and the Levite did not help the man on the side of the road. What does this tell us about their hearts? What does this teach us about our outward appearances vs. our heart?

- h) What was the relationship like between Jews and Samaritans? How does this knowledge help us better understand the parable?
- i) In the parable, what sorts of things did the Good Samaritan have to overcome, sacrifice, and risk in order to truly love his neighbor?
- j) Who are we in this parable? Why?
- k) How does this parable point to Jesus? Why is he the only true neighbor?
- l) After receiving the love of Christ, how are we then able to “go and do likewise,” (v. 37)?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Pastor Chris talked about how love moves people to action. What does this mean? Is it possible to love someone in thought and word but not in deed and action? Explain.
3. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, who are we? Why? Who is Christ in this parable? Why? Why is it important to remember this?
4. There is often a cost to loving others, especially those that we might find difficult to love. What must we be willing to sacrifice in order to tangibly love others? Why is this important? What can we do to nurture a heart that cares more about the benefit of others than it does the benefit of self?
5. How can we “go and do likewise,” (v. 37) in our small group? In our church? In our community?