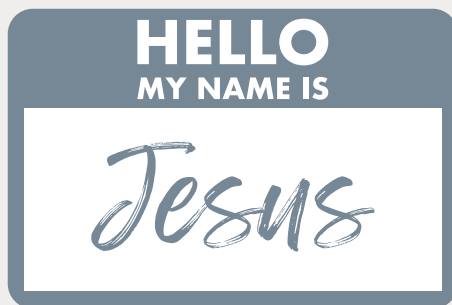


# “Love Thy Neighbor”

Luke 10:25-37



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to Sermon



## *The Gospel of Luke: Meeting Our Savior*

### **Warm-Up Question:**

Who are some of your “neighbors” (family, friends, or literal neighbors) that are difficult for you to sacrificially love and serve? What makes it that way?

**READ: Luke 10:25-37**

### **I. NEIGHBOR LOVE: PREREQUISITE**

- ▶ What do you think were the motives of the expert in the law for asking this question to Jesus (v. 25)? Discuss the essence of the man’s heart problem (and ours) from v. 29.
- ▶ If Jesus knew this about him, why might Jesus have answered the way he did in v. 26-28? What would be your response to Jesus if he told you that you can have eternal life from keeping the whole law, loving God and your neighbor perfectly?
- ▶ What do you think Jesus wants him & us to feel about our position before God?

### **II. NEIGHBOR LOVE: THE PRACTICE**

- ▶ Jesus tells a story of likely a Jew that got beat up and left for dead. The religious Jews walk by without helping him, but a Samaritan enemy he despises stops and cares for him. What is he trying to get the religious Jew to think about in terms of who his neighbor is? How does that direct us as to who our neighbor is we are to love? Who is your neighbor?
- ▶ How does the story of a Samaritan loving a Jew like this reveal the beauty of how God loves us and what God did for us through Jesus? How does that empower us in loving our “neighbor”?
- ▶ Read 1 John 3:16-19 and discuss what God calls us to AND what our motivation should be.
- ▶ Share some ways you’ve seen others around you sacrificially love their neighbor?
- ▶ Who is 1-2 “neighbors” God is calling you to love better? What is a next step?

**What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?**

Question(s) for Prayer Time:

- ▶ Pray about who your neighbor is that God wants you to love.



**SEVEN RIVERS**  
CHURCH

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## Scripture Passages Used:

**Luke 10:25** And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” **26** He said to him, “**What is written in the Law? How do you read it?**” **27** And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” **28** And he said to him, “**You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.**”

**Luke 10:29** But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” **30** Jesus replied, “**A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?**” **37** He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

**1John 3:16** By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. **17** But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? **18** Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

**1John 3:19** By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;

## **Additional Thoughts for Leaders**

- ▶ Describe the essence of the man's heart problem from v. 29. If Jesus knew this about him, why might he have answered the way he did in v. 26-28?
  - ➡ He tried to justify himself, to prove he was able to keep the law, to love God and others the way God wants him to. He was trying to prove he was righteous before God. Jesus probably asked him this problem to get him to articulate his own plan of salvation... to justify himself.
  
- ▶ What would be your response to Jesus if he told you that you can have eternal life from keeping the whole law, loving God and your neighbor perfectly?
  - ➡ I would say God have mercy on me. There's no way if I'm honest that I can keep the law. There's no way I love God with all my heart, mind, soul and strength, above all other things in life. There's no way I love even my wife with the same intensity I love myself, and much less some people who are difficult to love. Give me grace God, for there's no way to justify myself by keeping the law.
  
- ▶ What do you think Jesus wants him & us to feel about our position before God?
  - ➡ We are unable to keep the law and justify our self. We need a Savior.
  
- ▶ Jesus tells a story of likely a Jew that got beat up and left for dead. The religious Jews walk by without helping him, but a Samaritan enemy he despises stops and cares for him. What is he trying to get the religious Jew to think about in terms of who his neighbor is?
  - ➡ Jesus is trying to get him to put himself in the place of the one who is beat up and needs care, and then ask the question, "If I were in that position, what would I want my enemy to do to me?" "Who would I want a Samaritan to love as his neighbor?" Answer: even me. We are to love and care for even difficult people the way we'd want them to love and care for us.
  
- ▶ How does the story of a Samaritan loving a Jew like this reveal the beauty of how God loves us and what God did for us through Jesus? How does that empower us in loving our "neighbor"?
  - ➡ Think about the ways God loved us even when we were yet an enemy. Some of us were enemies like a "younger brother" by running away from God in rebellion. Some of us rebelled against God by being religious and trying to justify ourselves instead of being honest about our sin and looking to Christ.

## **For More Study of the Passage**

**Observation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interpretation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer:** \_\_\_\_\_