

### 3-3-24 The Greatest Month of Generosity

**Luke 10:25-37.**

How many weeks until Easter? (4 weeks)

**A light shines in the dark for those who are good, for those who are merciful, kind, and fair. 5 It is good for people to be kind and generous. Psalm 112:4-5 ESV**

Are you a generous person?

What qualifies someone as a generous person? Is it a billionaire philanthropist who gives millions to charity? Or someone contributing time to working at a soup kitchen?

Do generous people look at the world differently?

One article says, "Generosity makes our world a better place. It improves the life of the receiver. And it improves the life of the giver. Yet, despite the benefits, generosity is still too rare in our world today" (Joshua Becker, "9 Ways Generous People See the World Differently," *Becoming Minimalist*)

Generosity is a virtue that comes from the character of God. Throughout Scripture, God gives generously and calls his people to do the same in all areas of life: our time, talents, service, love, and money.

In our economically driven society, it's easy to describe the power of generosity in monetary language. But one thing in life that we can be generous with beyond money is time. Time is precious. To be generous with your time can be one of the greatest displays of generosity in the world.

Can you imagine what would have happened if Mr. Miyagi hadn't trained Daniel (son) LaRusso?

Who in your life took some time to pour, invest into you? Where would you be had they not?

There are a few different lessons for us to learn in the parable we are in today. Let's take a look.

**Read Luke 10:25-29.**

#### **1. Notice the question.**

- **Verse 25, "behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him...."**
- Leave it to a lawyer (scribe) to want to test Christ with words, **"Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"**
- Some 2,000 years later mankind is still asking the same question, *"What can I do to make it to heaven?"* Even when presented with God's Word, many still want to DO something to earn it.
- Before we get to how Jesus responded. Jump down to **verse 29**, what do we see in this verse? **"But he wanting to justify himself..."**
- Did this religious lawyer, scribe really want to know the answer to his question? No, he was hoping to cause Jesus to stumble, say the wrong words, give him something to use against Him.
- Aren't we guilty of trying to justify ourselves as well?
- Those that are not born-again believers will justify themselves and compare themselves to others.
- And those of us that are born-again still justify ourselves and compare ourselves to others.

- Do you see the parallel? Do you want another parallel between non-believers and believers when we try and justify ourselves? When we “try” to justify ourselves we do it with someone we view as less than us (pride). Very rarely does someone compare themselves with someone more spiritual or even with Jesus.

## 2. Notice the answer.

- **Verse 26. “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?”**
- This was a great verbiage volley from Jesus. I love how God deals with ignorant men with truth penetrating questions. I am glad to see I am not the only one He does this with.
- Can you imagine the interrogating lawyer suddenly becoming the defendant. All eyes on him. He started the conversation trying to set Jesus up and now he is on the hot seat.
- Look at the lawyer’s answer in **verse 27**. He quotes **Deuteronomy 6:5**, the command to love God and **Leviticus 19:18**, the commandment to love others as himself.
- We are to love God with “some” of heart, soul, strength, and mind. God is to have second, maybe fourth place in our life. What does our Bible reading say God ranks in our lives? What does the things we chase say God ranks in our lives? What does where we spend our time and money say that God ranks in our lives. (Uh oh, now I am meddling!)
- So, this leads me to a question, are we any different than the lawyer?
- Well of course! God has ALL my heart, soul, strength, and mind, yet I can’t stand fill in the blank and murder them with my thoughts and words I say about them to others.
- Or I will be a hypocrite in 100 different ways and just like the lawyer, I will say things to distract people, because I am “**wanting to justify**” myself.
- I am sure it is only me that is like this...
- The lawyer thinking fast on his feet asks, “**And who is my neighbor?**”
- I wonder if as the eyes of all those present that day look back to Jesus, and was there a big smile on His face?

Notice the question, notice the answer, now notice...

## 3. Notice the definition.

- “**Who is my neighbor?**” Who am I supposed to love like I do myself? Who am I supposed to treat as good if not better than myself? Of course, God is number 1!
- **Read verses 30-35.**
- Jesus answered by telling the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The road from Jerusalem to Jericho covers approximately 3,000 feet and descended 17 to 20 miles. It was a dangerous road to travel for robbers hid along its steep, winding way.
- Jesus says, “**A certain man...**” that could have been any Jewish man listening to Jesus’ words.
- Then Jesus says, “**a certain priest**”, was there any priest listening as Jesus gave this parable? Or maybe Jesus looked directly into the eyes of this “**certain lawyer.**”
- What was the priest’s reaction to this man beaten, naked and dying on the side of the road? When he saw the man, he recognized the need and immediately got involved?! No, passed by on the other side of the road.

- What about the Levite man? Levites were descendants of Levi but not of Aaron, and they assisted the priests (Aaron's descendants) in the temple. He **"came and looked and passed by on the other side"** He walked up, maybe snapped a selfie, or posted a video, but then got away from the man in need.
- Jesus gives the definition of a neighbor and how we are to treat each other. **Read verse 33. "But a certain Samaritan."** (Read verses 33-35). Samaritans were scorned by the Jews because of their mixed Jewish and Gentile ancestry.
- The Samaritan **"saw him"**, He didn't just see him, he saw him, he recognized there was a need and what took place in his heart? He was moved with compassion. Literally the Samaritan put himself or his family member in this man's place.
- What did his compassion lead to? It led to being inconvenienced.
- He was inconvenienced by time; he bandaged his wounds, took care of him, all night.
- He was inconvenienced of his pride; a Samaritan would have every right to feel the certain man got what he deserved.
- He was inconvenienced of his money. He paid for all the supplies to help him, along with the room at the inn, and the inn keepers taking care of him. Plus, the extra night's stay!
- He was inconvenienced of his personal stuff. He set the man in need on his animal (his transportation).
- Jesus laid out the definition of a neighbor; anyone you encounter. Look to the person on your right, your left, in front of you, behind you. They are your neighbors.
- Would you be willing to be inconvenienced by them? (Don't answer too quickly!)
- Ok, what about that one person you don't like? I know they deserve it, that's not the point.

## Conclusion

### Read verses 36-37.

Which was the neighbor to the man who was beaten, robbed and left to die?

What was the lawyer's answer? **"He who showed mercy on him."**

What is the definition of mercy? "Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm:"

What was Jesus' response to the lawyer? **"Go and do likewise."**

Theologian Walter Liefeld describes the power of the good Samaritan story: "Love is demonstrated in action, in this case in an act of mercy. It may be costly: cloth, wine, oil, transportation, money, and sacrifice of time".

### 2 Corinthian's 9:8, 13-15,

**And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.**

**while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, 14 and by their prayer for you,**

**who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!**

**Application points**

- 1. No matter our standing with God, if we are not careful we will question and debate with Him.**
- 2. Our default setting is set to justifying ourselves.**
- 3. Are we ready and available to be used? Inconvenienced?**
- 4. Our neighbors are all around us.**
- 5. To follow God, to be a servant of His, it will cost us something. Often more than we want to give up.**