

## Introduction

How many of you have heard people say, “I love God with all my heart; it is just His people that I have a problem with?” There are a lot of people who say that they have received Christ, and love God, but they avoid churches because they have been offended or hurt. It is God’s people that they have a hard time with. Although this may sound okay, it is not what the Scriptures teach.

Or how many of you have seen people who always show up just at the time the service begins, and leave immediately when the service is dismissed. They want the worship and the teaching, but they do not want to mingle with people. The Scriptures command us to greet one another, but they leave no time to greet one another and to fellowship with one another. Even when I was not in a pastoral position, I tried to get my family to church at least 15-20 minutes before the service started, and with a big family that was not always easy. God wants us to develop relationally with one another. It is difficult on Sunday mornings, and far easier in Life Groups, which we need to start back up again. As we grow larger, this becomes even more important. Please be in prayer for our Life Groups.

People have told me that they wanted a larger church, because they could keep a low profile. This is particularly true of people who have been hurt. What they were really saying is that they also wanted the music and the message, but they did not want to have anything to do with God’s people. They love God, but they have a problem loving their neighbor. There is a problem with this picture.

In Matthew 25:40, where Jesus talked about separating the sheep from the goats, He said that whatever we do for people is unto the Lord. When we feed the hungry, we are doing it unto the Lord. When we give a drink to the thirsty, or clothe the naked, or visit those in prison, it is all unto the Lord. On the other hand, whatever we do not do for the hungry, thirsty, and naked, we are not doing for the Lord.

(Matt 25:40) “The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'”

There is a correlation throughout Scripture that **we cannot love God and hate our brother**. John is probably more clear about this than any of the other writers. In 1 John 3:15, we find that he who hates his brother is a murderer and no murderer has eternal life. He goes on to say that must love our brother by laying down our lives for him. If we have the world’s goods and see our brother in need, and close our heart against helping him, we are not loving like God wants us to. We are not to love in words, but in deed and truth. If we love God, we must love our neighbor.

(1 John 3:15-18) “Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. {16} We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. {17} But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? {18} Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

I am really glad that we have a benevolence fund at our church. The Scriptures teach us that we are to give a portion of our tithes to help the widows, orphans, and poor. Therefore, we set aside a portion of our tithes to put into a benevolence account. Some of you give an offering on top of your tithes to the benevolence fund. I commend you for doing that. Lee Griego is the one who oversees

this account. When one of the men in our church died a couple of years ago, his wife did not have the money for a funeral. Our body helped out and paid all the expenses. I am happy that we could do that. When someone has a car that breaks down, or needs their utility bill paid, or has some other need, we try to take care of those needs through the benevolence account. There are many times that you and I are not aware of the needs, but Lee finds out about those needs and makes sure that they are taken care of. Why? It is part of loving God. We cannot turn a blind eye to these needs and then come here on Sunday morning and tell God how much we love Him. John says that the one who loves God should love his brother, and not withhold the world's goods from him.

In the next chapter John gets even clearer. He says, "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also."

(1 John 4:20-21) "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. {21} And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also."

Our passage today is about the greatest commandments, which are to love God and to love our neighbor. We will first look at the commandment to love. Second, we will look at the example of loving our neighbor. Let's read our text together.

(Luke 10:25-29) "And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" {26} And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" {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." {29} But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

(Luke 10:30-37) "Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. {31} "And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. {32} "Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. {33} "But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, {34} and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. {35} "On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.' {36} "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" {37} And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

## 1. The Command to Love

In our passage today, Jesus is asked by a lawyer about salvation. **The lawyer was testing Jesus.** The Pharisees and Sadducees were always putting Jesus to a test. They were trying to trap Him. In Matthew 16, they tested Jesus about showing them a sign from heaven. He told them an evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah.” Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days, just as Jesus was in the grave for three days.

(Matt 16:1-4) “The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. {2} But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' {3} "And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times? {4} "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah." And He left them and went away.”

In Matthew 22, they tested Jesus about paying taxes. Jesus said to them, “why are you testing Me, you hypocrites?...Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

(Matt 22:17-21) “Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?” {18} But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, "Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? {19} "Show Me the coin used for the poll-tax." And they brought Him a denarius. {20} And He \*said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" {21} They \*said to Him, "Caesar's." Then He \*said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's.”

In John 8, they tested Jesus about the woman caught in adultery. They wanted to see if He was going to stone the woman, as the Law commands. They were testing Him, so that they would have grounds to accuse Him. The Law also said that those who saw the sin had to be the first to throw the stones. Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground. Whatever He wrote caused them to go out. No one threw a stone at the woman. I believe Jesus began writing down their own adulteries. However, we do not know what He wrote. It was just another test that they brought to Jesus.

(John 8:3-9) “The scribes and the Pharisees \*brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court, {4} they \*said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. {5} "Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" {6} They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. {7} But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." {8} Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. {9} When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court.”

In Mark 10, they tested him about divorce. Divorce was an issue back then, and is still an issue today. Jesus told them that Moses permitted divorce because of hardness of heart. In other words, people become hardened in heart and refuse to forgive their spouse. Even though we are told to forgive seventy times seven, or indefinitely, we get to a place that we say, “no more! I won’t have anything to do with him anymore.”

(Mark 10:2-5) “Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife. {3} And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" {4} They said, "Moses permitted a man TO WRITE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY." {5} But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.”

Jesus went on to tell them that they are pursuing the wrong thing. He refers them back to Genesis, where a man and a woman are to cleave or be joined together. The word for cleave or join in Genesis is *dabaq*, which means to cling, overtake, stick close together, or cleave.

(Mark 10:6-9) “But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. {7} "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, {8} AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. {9} "What therefore God has joined (*dabaq*) together, let no man separate.”

When Jacob left without saying goodbye to Laban, he was three days away before Laban knew it. Laban pursued him for seven days and finally overtook (*dabaq*) Jacob. Your wife or husband may be more than three days separation from you, but we are charged to pursue and overtake, to cleave, and stick close to our spouses.

(Gen 31:23) “then he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him a distance of seven days' journey, and he overtook (*dabaq*) him in the hill country of Gilead.”

A man and woman are to pursue one another. The Pharisees were asking about pursuing a divorce. That is the wrong question. The question is how can I win back my wife? How can I win back my husband? He ends by saying that what God has joined together, let no man separate. When we make our vows before God, we are not to break those vows. We are not to pursue or carry out divorce; we are to pursue reconciliation.

When I hear about couples that are considering divorce, I pray for God to soften their hearts. God has called us to share the gospel with others. We pray for God to soften hearts so that people can respond to the gospel. But, when our hearts are hard, it is difficult to ask God to soften their hearts. We need to ask God for a soft heart in our own lives. The Scriptures say that **when we have love for one another, all men will know that we are His disciples.**

(John 13:35) “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

I want to say a word about counsel. We always need to be obedient to what the Lord says. If the Holy Spirit tells you to do something, do it. I never encourage people to disobey what the Holy Spirit is prompting them to do. However, the Holy Spirit is not going to tell you something contrary to God's word. We need to always submit what we think we are hearing to the word of God.

The same goes for counsel that you might receive from a pastor or friend. **We must always submit any counsel to the word of God.** If it is not in line with what God's word says, we must discard the counsel and follow God's word. **We must be submitted to the Word of God.**

A few months ago I was having lunch with a pastor. He said that he encouraged poor people not to tithe. I looked at him, and I said that I never encourage anyone to disobey God's word. My job as a pastor is to help teach God's word, and encourage God's people to obey His word. If you get counsel from a friend or pastor that is contrary to God's word, disregard it, and obey God's word. (As a side note, in that pastor's congregation, if people had been tithing, there would have been money to help the poor person. If they had been tithing, they would have been able to receive God's blessings that He promises when we tithe. He should have been encouraging them to obey God's principles about tithing, not disobey God's word.

The Pharisees tested Jesus about many things. In our passage today, they are testing Jesus about how to have eternal life. How did Jesus recognize that it was a test? Matthew indicates that the lawyer is a Sadducee. The Sadducees did not believe that the soul was eternal. Therefore, Jesus knew very quickly that this is a test. Jesus was wise and discerning.

(Luke 10:25) "And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

I don't like the Sadducee's motive, but I like His question; I wish more people would ask me about what they had to do to inherit eternal life. That is an open door to share the gospel. We should all be praying and looking for open doors to share with people. Jesus has an open door to share with this lawyer. I like how Jesus answers the lawyer's question. Jesus asked him a question. Jesus was a master communicator and was excellent at asking questions. Jesus asked him what was written in the Law. He also asks him for his interpretation. He said, "how does it read to you?" That is an open-ended question that invites more conversation. It is interesting that Jesus did not have the same discussion that he had with Nicodemus or with the Samaritan woman at the well. He uses a different approach with the Sadducee. We need wisdom, and we need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit about how we are to approach different people.

(Luke 10:26) "And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?"

There are two ways to get into heaven. You can live a perfect sinless life, fulfilling everything in the Law, or you can receive Christ's payment for your sins and enter eternal life by faith in Christ's work. Unfortunately, the Scriptures are very clear that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Unfortunately, the wages of our sin is death, or spiritual separation from God. Since all of us have already sinned, we do not have option one. **Our only option to have eternal life is to put our trust in Christ**, who did live a perfect and sinless life, and gave His life for us.

(Rom 3:23) "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

(Rom 6:23) "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The lawyer knew what was written in the Law, and he answered correctly, saying, "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." The lawyer knew that this was the greatest commandment. He also knew that loving your neighbor was also part of the answer. But, he was unwilling to acknowledge his own sins. He wanted to justify himself.

(Luke 10:27) “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.”

Jesus acknowledged that he had answered correctly. In facilitating and communicating with people, it is good to give positive feedback. It shows that you are listening, and are in agreement.

(Luke 10:28) “And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE.”

Jesus then adds, “do this and you will live.” It was as if Jesus was saying that you have not really done this yet. You still need to start doing this. The gospel, or good news, is that we have a way to heaven. The bad news is that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. God is not going to grade on the curve, and if you are in the upper half of the curve, you will get a passing grade. No, God is holy, and sin cannot come into His presence. If you have not lived a perfect and sinless life, keeping the Law is not going to work.

But the Lawyer wanted to justify himself, so he said to Jesus, “and who is my neighbor?” He was really telling Jesus, that he had loved God with all his heart, soul, strength, and mind. He had given his sin offerings, and burnt offerings. He had participated in all the feasts. He had kept the Sabbath. He had paid his tithes and given offerings. And he had also loved his neighbor. If there was any doubt about his keeping the Law, Jesus must be referring to loving his neighbor. So, he asks Jesus, “who is my neighbor?”

(Luke 10:29) “But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?”

## **2. The Example of Loving our Neighbor**

We saw that we are commanded to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We also saw that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. You cannot love God and hate your neighbor. The lawyer asked Jesus another good question. “And who is my neighbor?”

I managed a design firm in Atlanta for several years before moving to New Mexico. I had a Project Manager that worked for me that was having a difficult time with his neighbor. The neighbor let his dog use the bathroom on his grass everyday, and did not bother to pick it up. Steve went to his neighbor and told him about it. Nothing changed. Then, Steve began to take his shovel and flick the poop over to his neighbor’s yard. Still, the neighbor’s dog was allowed to keep going on his yard. Things were escalating. This conflict had been building for a while. Then, Steve began to put the poop each day in a nice pile on his neighbor’s front porch. I can tell you that there was no love flowing between Steve and his neighbor. In fact, Steve put his house up for sale. It sold quickly, and he moved away from his neighbor. He could not stand to be around the neighbor. Who was Steve’s neighbor that he was called to love? It was the neighbor that let his dog poop on his grass. It is not always easy to love your neighbor, but we are called to do just that.

Jesus could have answered this a lot of different ways, but he gives a story about a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. Jerusalem is set up on a hill. It has an elevation of about 3,000 feet. The reason that we have Psalms that are called Psalms of Ascent is because they were Psalms

that were sung as people made their way up to Jerusalem to come to one of the three feasts that Jews were required to attend. This man has just left Jerusalem, and is on his way down to Jericho. Jericho is about 900 to 1,000 feet below sea level, so there is about a 4,000 foot drop.

(Luke 10:30) “Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.”

Jesus continues with his story that “the man fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.” The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was known to be dangerous and treacherous. It had many cliffs and drops along the way, making it dangerous. But, it was also treacherous, in that it also had a lot of twists, turns, and rocks and caves that made it easy for robbers to attack those who were traveling on it. The story that Jesus is describing is very plausible, and the Sadducee could easily imagine everything that Jesus is saying.

Jesus gives three examples or three responses that people may have. The first example is that of a priest. “By chance, a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.” If you were the man that was left beaten to a pulp, and half dead, this would be a dream come true. You couldn’t ask for anyone better? God had sent a priest to your rescue. A priest should have been the perfect person to have. The priests were the ones who interceded for people. The priests were the ones who offered sacrifices for you. The priests were the ones who consecrated themselves and could enter into the holy of holies. A priest was discerning and wise. He was responsible for making distinctions between what was clean and unclean, what was holy and unholy. A priest was a spiritual leader. This was the perfect person to come along.

(Luke 10:31) “And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.”

But **the priest passed by on the other side.** I have done that before. We were in Italy a few weeks ago, and everywhere you turned there were beggars. You did not want to look at them, or you would never get them to stop bothering you. I do it in my car. I see people begging at the stop light. I look the other way when they hold up their sign asking for mercy, and blessing you for helping them. I walk on the other side of the road in my mind, not wanting to deal with the person. Now my wife is different. She rolls down her window and gives them a bottle of water. She has compassion on them. What is your response? Do you walk on the other side of the road when your neighbor needs help? That is what the priest did. The one who ought to have helped walked on the other side. As Christians, we are the ones who ought to help. What do we do when see a needy person?

The second example Jesus gives is of a Levite. Levites were also God’s workers, His servants. They made their living by serving the Lord. They were consecrated and served in the temple. They kept things clean. They assisted the priests. They also were worshipers. The singers and musicians that led in praise and worship were Levites. We would expect a Levite to help the badly beaten man by the side of the road. But, **the Levite saw him, and passed by on the other side of the road.** He deliberately closed his hands and heart from helping the man. He deliberately walked by, and on the other side of the road. He too was lacking in compassion and concern for the man.

(Luke 10:32) “Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.”

The third example that Jesus gives is of the Samaritan. The Samaritans were despised by the Jews, so this would not be the person that a Jew, who was badly beaten and lying on the road, would expect to receive help. We assume that it was a Jew, because our text says that he was coming from Jerusalem. It is highly unlikely that a Samaritan would have been coming from Jerusalem.

(Luke 10:33) “But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him..”

Who were the Samaritans? After Solomon, Israel was divided into two kingdoms, there was a Northern and Southern Kingdom. The Northern Kingdom was called the Kingdom of Israel or Northern Kingdom. The Southern Kingdom was also called the Kingdom of Judah. When the Northern Kingdom was overtaken and taken into captivity, there were Jews who remained in the land. They intermarried with the Gentiles, which was strictly forbidden. Therefore, they were considered half-breeds and they were hated and despised by the Jews. They had no dealings with one another. Jews would walk around Samaria, rather than pass through it and come across a Samaritan.

When Nehemiah came back to rebuild Jerusalem and the wall, the Samaritans were the ones that hindered the work. The Samaritans, led by Sanballat tried to prevent them from building the wall. They threatened and discouraged the Jews. So the Jews and the Samaritans had ill feelings towards one another that went back for a long time.

Let’s continue in the story about the Samaritan. When he came upon the badly-beaten man, **the Samaritan saw him and he felt compassion.** There are lots of hurting people around us. Jesus said that the fields are white for harvest. Do we see those fields. Are we like the Samaritan who saw the man and his needs. Are we like the Samaritan who felt compassion for the man. Do we care that someone is lying on the side of the road dying? Do we care that they are hurting and dying? One of my prayers for our body is that we would be soft-hearted and have compassion for people.

(Luke 10:33-35) “But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. {35} "On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.”

The Samaritan bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. The oil and wine were part of his provisions. He used what he had to minister to the man. The wine, because it was fermented, had alcohol in it. It was a disinfectant. The oil, softened up the tissue, helping it to heal.

The Samaritan also put him on his own beast. It could have been a donkey, mule, horse, or ox. That meant that he was now going to walk the rest of the seventeen miles to Jericho. We do not know if he was tired or not; we just know that he put the man on his beast and let him ride. He brought him to an inn and took care of him. He personally attended to the need of the hurting man. It is one thing to give money to the benevolence fund; it is quite another to personally go meet the needs of a person that is hurting. On the next day, he took two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “take care of him; and whatever you spend, when I return I will repay you.” Some scholars say that two denarii was enough money to take care of the man for almost two months. He was committed to helping the man until he recovered. He provided follow-up care for the man. Sometimes, the initial care for a person does not do the trick; it takes second effort.



Many years ago, when we lived in Florida, there was a family down the street that we reached out to. Rob had been offended by a preacher at one time, and was angry about it. He said that the preacher tried to save him in his own house! But, I reached out in love to Rob. I took him to play Wallyball with our men's group. I visited with him regularly and built a relationship with him. Anyway, one month, he was pretty upset, and as we talked, I learned that he was behind on his mortgage, and he was afraid of being foreclosed and losing his house. At that time, I was not making a lot of money. I had seven children, and was making just over thirty thousand a year. Our mortgage was 12.5% at the time, and a lot of my paycheck went to pay the mortgage. Anyway, we gave the man \$750.00 to pay one month's mortgage. He could not believe that we would do something like that. The money was not the initial effort. It was just another opportunity to continue ministering to this man and his family. It was another effort to bring the man to Christ by showing him the love of Christ.

Recently, a man was out of money, his rent was overdue, and his car needed repairs. We did not go to Lee and try and use the benevolence account. Karen and I paid his monthly rent, and we fixed his car. It costs us about \$2,000.00. Then, after driving his car, it still did not work properly, so we told him we would pay for the second repair. We thought it would cost \$1,400.00, but it ended up costing much more. Since the man still did not have any work, we paid his monthly rent again. We have been praying for this man for a long time. We do not know if it will be the first, second, third, fourth, or fifth effort to reach this man with the gospel. We will just continue to pray for him, and look for opportunities to share the love of Christ with him.

Next, the Samaritan said that he would pay any extra charges that the innkeeper might incur in caring for the man. He said, when I return, I will repay you. The Samaritan was going to provide follow up on what happened. He cared about seeing the man through the whole healing process. This was not an item on his check list of good deeds. **The Samaritan genuinely cared about the man.**

(Luke 10:35) "On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.'"

The Samaritan was ministering to more than the beaten man. He was also ministering to the innkeeper. The innkeeper had a front row seat and was observing everything that was being done for the Jewish man, an enemy of the Samaritans. Many times our actions speak much louder than our words, and the Samaritan's actions were shouting from the rooftops.

## Conclusion

As we come to a close, Jesus asks the lawyer, "which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" The lawyer responded, "the one who showed mercy toward him." And Jesus told him, "go and do the same." The lawyer had asked the question to justify himself. Jesus gave this story to show the man that he was not loving his neighbor. The lawyer had a very narrow view of who his neighbor was. The lawyer lacked compassion on those who were hurting, and had not shown mercy. The lawyer had been unwilling to lay his own life down for others. Jesus tells him that he has not kept the command, but he was now to go and do the same.

(Luke 10:36-37) "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell

into the robbers' hands?" {37} And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

As a church, our vision is to be a church that loves God with all of our heart, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This account is about who we are and what we do. We cannot simply come to church and sing some songs and hear a nice sermon. Loving God includes loving our neighbor. It includes our neighbor whose dog poops on our lawn. It includes our neighbor who is out of work and money. It includes our neighbor who has not been too nice to us. It includes our family members who are not walking with God. It includes our spouses, who may have hurt or offended us.

God has called us to love Him, and to love people. Inasmuch as we have done it unto them, we have done it unto Him. This morning, I want us to pray for one another. Pair up with the person next to you, and I want each of you to pray for that person. I do not want anything long or personal. I want us to pray for the following things.

Lord, I pray for Bill to

1. have a soft heart towards God, towards his/her family, and for his/her neighbors
2. have a heart of mercy and compassion that see the needs of others
3. to have a willingness to minister to those who are hurting
4. to increase and abound in love for God and my neighbor.

I ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Introduction** (Matt 25:40, Luke 10:25-37)

- We cannot love God and \_\_\_\_\_ our brother. (1 John 3:15-18, 4:20-21)

**1. The Command to Love** (Luke 10:25-29)

- The lawyer was \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. (Matt 16:1-4, Matt 22:17-2, John 8:3-9, Mark 10:2-9, Gen 31:23)
- When we have \_\_\_\_\_ for one another, all men will know that we are His disciples. (John 13:35)
- We must always submit any \_\_\_\_\_ we receive to the word of God. We must be submitted to the Word of God.
- Our only option for \_\_\_\_\_ is to put our trust in Christ. (Rom 3:23, Rom 6:23)

**2. The Example of Loving our Neighbor** (Luke 10:30-37)

- The \_\_\_\_\_ passed by on the other side.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ saw him, and passed by on the other side of the road.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ saw him and he felt \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Samaritan genuinely \_\_\_\_\_ about the man.

**Introduction** (Matt 25:40, Luke 10:25-37)

- We cannot love God and \_\_\_\_\_ our brother. (1 John 3:15-18, 4:20-21)

**1. The Command to Love** (Luke 10:25-29)

- The lawyer was \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. (Matt 16:1-4, Matt 22:17-2, John 8:3-9, Mark 10:2-9, Gen 31:23)
- When we have \_\_\_\_\_ for one another, all men will know that we are His disciples. (John 13:35)
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