

Feb 08, 2015



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Serving Neighbors, Serving God Luke 10:25-34

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews how we as Christians should always be **Serving Neighbors and Serving God**. The **study's aim** is to recognize how self-centeredness hurts our ability to help others. The **study's application** is to forgo personal conveniences so that we can meet the needs of others.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Today's lesson is best understood by first familiarizing ourselves with the characters that appear in it. The text begins with Jesus being confronted with a question from an expert in the law, or what some translations simply call "a lawyer." This refers to someone very different from modern lawyers. This first-century Jewish lawyer was not a legal advocate like a lawyer of today, but was an expert in the Law of Moses—someone who taught that law and its application. We might compare this kind of lawyer with a scholar of the Bible today. In responding to this expert's challenge, Jesus introduced some typical characters in the form of a story. One was a Jewish priest. Another character in Jesus' story is a Levite, a member of Israel's tribe of Levi. Levites assisted the priests in the temple (Numbers 3:5-9). Levites might be masons or carpenters who maintained the temple grounds, musicians accompanying worship, janitors who cleaned up after the crowds, or even animal handlers who managed the livestock that was sacrificed (1 Chronicles 23:27-31). In contrast with these two is a Samaritan, who stands at the center of the story. Jews and Samaritans were rivals for the land of Israel and for the claim to be God's people (Luke 9:51-56; John 4:9, 19-22). Assyria deported many people of the tribes of northern Israel in 722 BC and brought captives from elsewhere into the land of Israel. This resulted in intermarriages between those imported captives and the Israelites who remained, those not taken into exile (2 Kings 17; Ezra 4:2, 10). The descendants of such intermarriages became the Samaritans. The designation Samaria comes from 1 Kings 16:24. The "pure blood" Jews viewed Samaritans with disdain. This resulted in antagonism between Samaritans and the Jews who returned from the Babylonian exile after 539 BC (Ezra 4:1-5; Nehemiah 4:1, 2). Jews were afraid of being corrupted by those who were not pure Israelites, so post-exilic Jews had few dealings with Samaritans (John 4:9). Jesus' enemies tried to discredit him by labeling him a Samaritan (John 8:48). Thus a Samaritan serves as a perfect foil in Jesus' story, as we shall see.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

There is a great contrast in our text between the two religious leaders and the Samaritan, but at its very root, there is one thing that especially distinguishes the Samaritan from the Jews—compassion. When the two Jewish religious leaders saw the injured man, they seem to be repulsed, and they do everything they can to ignore and avoid him. The Samaritan, moved with compassion, does everything possible to minister to the needs of the injured victim. What is Jesus trying to teach this Jewish lawyer here, by telling him this story? Overall, I believe that Jesus is attempting to show this lawyer that the Jewish religious system of that day was completely bankrupt. This lawyer obviously saw himself as the authority, and Jesus as the back woods preacher. The lawyer thought of himself as the accreditation agency, and of Jesus as the novice who was being tested for official approval. The lawyer thought of Judaism as owning the only franchise offering tickets to "kingdom of God," and anyone who did not obtain their official approval as imposters. Jesus sought to show this self-confident lawyer that by his own definitions, law keeping was not the pathway to eternal life, because no one is able to live up to the demands of the law. In order for one to be saved by law keeping, he must fulfill every requirement of the law all of the time, and with his whole heart, soul, mind and strength. This was impossible, and so this lawyer should realize that the law can only condemn, but it cannot save. This lawyer's confidence in the law and his ability to keep it was at the heart of his resistance to Jesus Christ. He confronted Jesus because he perceived (correctly) that our Lord posed a threat to Judaism. This lawyer was unwilling to accept faith in the Lord Jesus as the way to eternal life because his whole life was devoted to the preservation and promotion of law keeping. Until this lawyer saw the bankruptcy of his religious system, he could not cast himself on Jesus for salvation by faith.

(Adapted from Good Samaritan by Bob Deffinbaugh)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Love given reflects love received

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Dear Jesus, help me to experience
Your love more deeply so that I
can share it with others.
Empower me through Your Holy
Spirit so that I can glorify You.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
*A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another; as I have
loved you, that you also love one
another. (John 13:34 NKJV)*

(From "Our Daily Bread", Feb 25, 2001)

Series: ACTS OF WORSHIP

UNIT: Stewardship for Life

NEXT WEEK

SERVING THE LEAST
(Matt 25:31-46)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

SERVING NEIGHBORS BY LOVING GOD (LUKE 10:25-28)

What is loving God

Loving God is fearing, serving and obeying Him (Deut 10:12-13)

Loving God is the first and greatest command (Matt 22:37-40)

Loving God is more important than offerings (Mark 12:33)

With all our heart

We are able to love God because He purposed our hearts to do so (Deut 30:6)

Loving God with our heart is rejoicing in His salvation (Ps 13:5)

Loving God with our heart is trusting in God and praising Him for that (Ps 28:7)

Loving God with our heart is being steadfast in our faith (Ps 57:7)

With all our soul

Loving God with our soul is worshipping God in spirit and truth (John 4:24)

We can love God with our soul by blessing His Holy Name (Ps 103:1)

We can love God with our soul because our soul belongs to God (Ezek 18:4)

With all our strength

We can love God with our strength because He is our strength (Ps 18:1-3)

We can love God with our strength through endurance and patience (Col 1:10-12)

With all our mind

We can love God with our mind by praying and singing to God with our mind (1 Cor 14:15)

We can love God with our mind by setting our mind on what the Holy Spirit desires (Rom 8:5-6)

We can love God with our mind because God has renewed our mind (Rom 12:2)

SERVING GOD BY LOVING OTHERS (LUKE 10:29-37)

Don't ignore others troubles

Instead of ignoring, God wants us to help carry other's burdens (Gal 6:2)

Instead of ignoring, God wants us to help the oppressed and share with the poor (Isa 58:6-7)

Instead of ignoring, God wants us to bear with the failings of the weak (Rom 15:1)

Instead of ignoring, God wants us to encourage and help those who need it (1Thes 5:14)

Have compassion for others

God has compassion on us so we can have compassion on others (2 Cor 1:3-4)

As God's chosen people, we should have compassion (Col 3:12)

We are commanded to be kind and compassionate (Eph 4:32)

Showing compassion confirms we have wisdom from God (James 3:17)

As a member of the body of Jesus, we should be sympathetic and compassionate (1 Pet 3:8)

Compassion is one of the building blocks of maturity in the faith (2 Pet 1:5-8)

Address the physical needs of others

We are commanded to attend to the physical needs of those who need it (James 2:15-16)

We are to provide the physical needs of others (Prov 25:21)

We must love in physical action not just words (I John 3:18)

Love compels us to do no harm to others (Rom 13:10)

Love is meeting the needs of others (Luke 6:35)

Address the financial needs of others

Address the financial needs by being generous with our resources (2 Cor 9:11)

Address the financial needs by giving versus always desiring to receive (Acts 20:35)

Address the financial needs by supplying the needs of others out of our plenty (2 Cor 8:14)

Address the financial needs by supporting the needs of others (Phil 4:16)

Address the spiritual needs of others

Always try to assist in the restoral of others (Gal 6:1)

Pray for the spiritual health of others (I John 5:16)

Always try to help those who are not sure of their spiritual destination (Jude 1:22-23)

Assist in the spiritual growth of others (Luke 22:32)