

# Are YOU a Neighbor?

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Main Scriptures: Luke 10: 25 - 37

Supporting Scriptures: Micah 6: 8; Job 6: 14; Proverbs 19: 17; Zechariah 7: 9; Matthew 5: 44; John 3: 16

Notes:

What should I Do to inherit eternal life?

Who is my neighbor?

Luke tells us that this Rabbi - A teacher of the Law, came to Jesus in an attempt to test him and asked a profound question. He asked - What should I do to inherit eternal life. Jesus did not answer his question instead he posed a question to him, asking him to tell him what he understood from the Law of Moses. The man answered " you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength and all your mind. And Love your neighbor as yourself." he knew what was written in the laws of Moses. It is very easy for us to know what the word of God says to quote the scriptures and not do what the scriptures say. The scriptures are written so we may understand what we are to do. The Word of God is active. This man knew exactly what the scriptures said.

Your neighbor who you can touch, and speak with and show kindness to, Love them as yourself.

The man after hearing what Jesus said wanted to justify his actions - something was acting inside of him. So he asked Who is my neighbor? Jesus then told him this parable.

This morning the question is - it's not who is my neighbor but as we get into the parable the question that Jesus is asking - Are you a neighbor?

Micah 6: 8 the Lord requires us to do justly and love mercy not just to receive but to give and show and to walk humbly with your God. That is what the Lord requires.

Job 6: 14; Proverbs 19: 17; Zachariah 7: 9

This story is a story of love and compassion and mercy. When we talk about compassion or love being shown or as believers being recipients of the Holy Ghost/Love of God it is for us to understand that God showed his love to us to empower us to love one another and to Love our God.

The Holy Ghost was not given for us to be emotional and spirited. The word compassion comes from the word - Rahamin - which means to have mercy. It's the emotion of mercy shown from one individual to another. It comes from the name of the most motherly organ in the human body (womb) Every mother understands what it means to love her children, the one that comes from her womb. You understand the emotional connection that cannot be clearly expressed to others. It is this word that clearly reflects us the mercy the love that God expects us to have one for the other. Jesus says in this parable- a Jewish man was traveling and was attacked and overwhelmed by bandits. They took away the man's dignity and left him half dead. I want you to get a picture of this in your mind.

**Faith Deliverance International Ministries**

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A Priest saw the man lying there and crossed the other side of the road and would not touch him or attempt to find out if he is still alive. Was not concerned that a fellow human was desperate in need of assistance. A priest who knew the law and should understand compassion. He walked by and did not want to come in contact with him but made a decision to cross to the other side of the road. How active is the spirit of compassion in our hearts? How many have we seen, or heard that are grasping for life, half-dead, stripped, and naked but we pass by on the other side. Placing our own interests above the needs of others. How many? every day we pass them by - people need the Lord and we are the hands and the feet and the mouth that should show the Love of God in this world.

Proverbs 21:13 - those who make a decision not to hear the cry of the poor will also cry but will not be heard.

Perhaps the priest was on his way to an appointment to his work but what he did is to place his work, his appointment above the need of individuals. Above the need of his Jewish man who is half-naked and dying and if you are dying the first thing you need is to be kept warm and this priest passes by with no love. We can tell people we love God and that we know God but until we begin to do...

Jesus Says you want eternal life you know that you have it when you love God with all your heart and you love people.

Matthew 5: 44

A temple assistant also passed by what he walked over and looked at him and passed by on the other side. Very close, at least what he saw caused him to draw near so he could have a clearer picture of what was taken place and he looked at him lying there but he also passed by him. He sees the gateway to the spirit of compassion is still closed. There is not a release of compassion from him. He sees the wound he must have heard the man even groaning probably unconscious but he could see he is breathing. But seeing and not having the ability to feel the pain and that's what at times our lives have become. We are noisy we are shouting and dancing but there is a world around us in pain and half-dead and we don't feel it. Sometimes we sit in our pews and instead of walking to the man (the man is struggling through and finds himself in our assembly) and we don't see death hanging over that individual's life. The compassion is dried up. We say we are filled with the Holy ghost but we don't allow God to move through us. Sometimes we are more concerned about our safety and we don't give life and love to those who are half dead.

Perhaps he is more concerned about reaching our destination or keep ourselves unspotted from the world but the pride of it makes us not go out to the world to meet people who are naked and half dead. Because they don't look like us we begin to feel weird.

Compassion - we can have no church without the spirit of compassion. Everywhere he went he was moved with compassion. He saw the sick folks and was moved with compassion.

There is a next man - a Samaritan, a man who is despised by the Jews. He came along and when he saw the man immediately he had compassion for him. Going over to him - compassion will allow you to act. Have you seen a person in tragedy and someone stops and in every way try to meet the need of that individual. He saw the man and he felt compassion for him that caused him to go over to him. Perhaps if this Jewish man was not in need he wouldn't stop to have a conversation with him. But the Samaritan stopped and something moved in their heart when he saw the need. it didn't matter that they

were rivals. What mattered was that a human being needed a neighbor. Someone needed some love. Someone needed pity. I am right there I feel his pain and I understand what he is going through. Above everything else his need is of utmost importance for God so loved the world - Man's need was of utmost importance that's why Jesus came to this world to give life. The man gave to soothe his wounds - the wounds that the priest and the levis saw but would not touch.

How many of us are concerned with the pains of others. The pains of others, we pass them by, we see them, they are screaming out begging for a neighbor and God has placed them directly before us for us to see. Compassion must be developed. Compassion needs patience, He uses our senses, what we see and hear and touch and smell. Spending time to feel the pain - as Jesus was touched with the feelings of our infirmities.

When we get the Holy Ghost allows us to feel the pain of others. Many of us were taught that it is just about speaking in tongues but it means we begin to feel what the Lord feels and hear what he hears.

Jesus took on himself in the form of a servant to save sinners like me. he made himself of little or no reputation because the need of man was of utmost importance. This man displaced himself from his own donkey and sacrificed his comfort because there was a man with a greater need. Who is this man? a Jewish man

Energy and money were spent in taking care of this man - Love requires time and energy and our resources. We see some folks we look like the Levite, we look and recognize the need but we carry a deadly spirit of the Pharisees we want to tell them to be warm. We hear the need and see the need and we have the ability to meet the need but want to go in prayer to ask God to meet the need. That's not the God of the bible. God will not hear our prayers. When we act like that and shut up our ears to the cry of the poor we will also cry but will not be heard. The good Samaritans still continued with compassion even after he left him in the hands of the innkeeper that he will cover whatever else is in need because his intention is to ensure that this man be healed and his nakedness be covered. That silver coin amounted to 2 denari is somewhere between 24 - 48 days of room and board

As we freely receive we should freely give to others the care and the Love not just to our brothers but to strangers and others. To be a neighbor to everyone. - Matthew 10: 8

Go and do the same - is for all of us - take a note of how the Samaritan acted and make sure you do the same to fellow human beings. It doesn't matter what race or community they are from. We don't have classes in the church we see one person. There is no black church or white church - there is one church. Galatians 3: 28

Ask God to activate that emotion of compassion that will allow us. to have pity and feel the pain. We need to pray from a position of what others are experiencing. He [Jesus] felt the pain and was moved and would not stop. He carried out his ministry in this world reaching the lost at any cost he preached to people.

There are some moving dead people around and God gives us bowels of mercy that when we extend this gospel to them we show them love and patience until a door is opened and we need to show more love until that dead it raised. If we value the mercy we have received then we are ready to give mercy to others - Love your enemies. Not fake, but love them.

Lord let me feel the burden of those I pass by in this world. Let me feel the compassion and let me spend my energy and time caring for others. People need the Lord.