

DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS? / Sunday, February 8, 2015

Unifying Topic: **SERVING NEIGHBORS, SERVING GOD**

Lesson Text

I. **Inheriting Eternal Life** (Luke 10:25-28)

II. **Looking For A Loophole** (Luke 10:29-37)

The Main Thought: Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. (Luke 10:36-37, KJV).

Unifying Principle: People of goodwill take care of and serve their neighbors. Why would they do this? The Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches that when the faithful serve their neighbor, they serve God.

Lesson Aim: To examine Jesus' teaching about compassion for one's neighbors.

Life Aim: To reflect on the connection between serving neighbors and serving God.

HISTORY:

Chapter 10:17-24 The 70 disciples had been out proclaiming the Good News and they returned with joy announcing unto the Lord that even the demons obeyed them when they used the name of the Lord (v.17). Jesus knew, because He saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning (v.18). Jesus had given them authority and power over the enemy; walk on serpents to crush them, and nothing shall injure them (v.19). However, it's not for them to rejoice over the demons obeying them (what God has done through them), but rather that their names are written in heaven. It is the greatest blessing of eternal salvation (v.20). At that, Jesus rejoiced in spirit and thanked the Father that these things—the truth that the seventy had learned (that God was active in the world; that God saves men and cares for men, giving them power over the forces of evil and writing their names in heaven), was hidden from the wise and prudent Why? Because they only rest in their own ability and achievements and senses; no need beyond themselves. They sense no need for God. But, Jesus rejoiced that the Father had revealed these things to babes. The babes come as little children; also the humble before God receive spiritual truths (v.21). The Father gives the Son authority over everything. No one knows the Son except the Father and vice versa. The Son can introduce Himself, as well as the Father to anyone He wants (v.22). Privately He turned to His disciples and called them blessed for what their eyes have seen (v.23). Because we are privileged to know so much about Christ, we must be careful to follow Him. Even many prophets and kings longed and desired to see and hear what the disciples have seen and heard. They made many God-inspired predictions, but they did not see nor hear what the disciples seen and heard. (v.24).

Luke 10:25-28 Inheriting Eternal Life

10:25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?—

The lawyer, an expert and teacher in Jewish Law was not seeking the truth, but setting a trap for Jesus; trying to trip Him up; tempt Him. He tried to lead Jesus to discredit Himself by giving some unusual answer that would arouse the people against Him. This man, a lawyer, one who speaks to help people in truth of the law; trained to debate, wanted to know what he can do to inherit eternal life; how to get to heaven. Notice, he stressed works— "What shall I do?" To him eternal life was about his works.

10:26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?— The lawyer has read the law and knew the law, so, Jesus turns this around and asks him a question— "What is written in the law, and how do you understand it?" Answering a question with a question!

10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And the lawyer answers with the Old Testament scripture (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18): "*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*" He is really answering his own question and not knowing it.

10:28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. Jesus says that he has answered rightly. If he does this he will live. Thereby answering rightly, he can't trick Jesus up. Yes, "*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind;*" for you see love is active—Love God with all that you are, with all your being, all your nature—three parts—heart, soul, mind. This is a personal relationship, not a distant relationship. And lastly, but not least, "*Love thy neighbour as thyself.*"

Luke 10:29-37 Looking For A Loophole

10:29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?— The lawyer is still asking questions because he had trouble with that last part: so he asks, "Who is his neighbor?" He sensed Jesus was saying that he had done the law, but failed to love his neighbor.

10:30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Jesus turns the conversation to a parable in which the lawyer may understand. This is about a certain man (no name) who goes down from Jerusalem to Jericho (a treacherous path)— Because there were thieves traveling that same road who came upon this certain man, and stripped, robbed, and beat him, leaving him half dead as they departed.

10:31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Well, this man needed help, but when a certain priest came by, he passed by on the other side of the road, and did not stop to help.

10:32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite saw this man lying there on the road; came and looked at him, not to render aid, but just passed by on the other side.

10:33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,— But a certain Samaritan also came by on the road, but when he saw him he had compassion on the man lying there.

10:34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The certain Samaritan showed the type of love for a perfect stranger Jesus is looking for. He bound up the man's wounds, poured oil and wine on the wounds to heal him, set him on his own donkey, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

10:35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. So the next day upon leaving the inn, he gave the innkeeper two pence (two days wages), telling the innkeeper to take care of the wounded man. If it cost more than what's given, he would repay when he comes back.

10:36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?— Now, Jesus in turn asks the lawyer another question: "*Which now of these three, do you think is your neighbor?*"

10:37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. The lawyer was paying attention because He answered rightly again. He said the one who showed mercy to the wounded man. That was simple, because Jesus now tells the lawyer "*Go, and do thou likewise!*" No question about it, he answered his own question.

SUMMARY:

¹A certain lawyer, who was an expert in the law, asked Jesus "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (v.25). It was a good question asked with a bad motive, because the lawyer wanted to trap our Lord. Jesus, as He often did, simply answered him by asking another question; "*What is written in the law?*"(v.26). The lawyer gave the right answer but he refused to apply it to himself (vv.27-29).

Jesus then told this man a story which may have been a true story or it could have been a parable (vv.30-37). He told how a certain man (probably a Jew) went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. It was a dangerous road to travel, for robbers hid along its steep and winding way. This man was attacked, beaten, robbed, and stripped of his clothes. Two Jews: a priest and a Levite passed by, doing nothing to help this poor man. Then a Samaritan came along, who was hated by the Jews. He risked his own life and spent his own money to help this robbed and beaten victim.

The lawyer could not judge anyone but himself. The question to us: Do we take action to love our neighbor in anyway? Like the traveler, we have been wounded and left to die, and we can do nothing to save ourselves. But Jesus came along and took us to a place of healing. Our salvation is His doing, not our own!

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-parable-of-the-good-samaritan/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwmsundayschool.html>