"The Good Samaritan"
Unified Series – Part 3
September 1, 2024

Intro –

- **Welcome all of our CHURCH FAMILY TODAY!**
  - **Locations & Online**
  - **Intro – CA Pastor**

Summarize –

- **Series called "Unified"**
- **Learning what the Bible has to say about unity.**
  - **Come Let's Honor our pastors → HARD CONVOS!**

THIS WEEK –

- **Closing our series today**
- **Story of the The Good Samaritan (famous bible story)**
- **Amazing account of Jesus and an Expert of the law (Lawyer)**
- **We are going to dive into the Word of God and see what Jesus was trying to teach in this incredible story.**

PRAY

Some things to understand–
One of the most familiar stories/parables that Jesus shared.

- **The secular world outside → good neighbor. Help the poor.**
- **Christian faith → This story is associated it with the idea of doing random acts of kindness and goodwill to those who are in great need, or to advocate for social justice…**

Generally speaking → we know it as the story that encourages us to be GOOD NEIGHHBORS!

ILL –STORY OF ERNIE (Favorite memories of a neighbor) -> peculiar, interesting, Pomeranian – held it in his arms, amazing accents.

- AND THIS IS HOW WE OFTEN THINK ABOUT THIS STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN → GOOD NEIGHBOR

BUT THE Problem –

Even though this story does deal with these elements, it is NOT primarily about this!

- Only this lens= MISS THE DEEPER MEANING

We are going to see the deeper meaning of this story as we examine the QUESTION that is asked of JESUS. Let's go to

Luke 10:25 – 37.

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

a) There is our question to examine. The question is about ETERNAL LIFE, SALVATION = So this story is PRIMARILY about eternal life.
b) Lawyer →Expert in the MOSAIC LAW. This guy knew the scriptures in and out.
c) Not great motive "to test"… Prove Jesus is not the Messiah!

So then Jesus hear the question and responds with a question (he often did this:

26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"
27 He answered, " '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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

a) Jesus goes – “well you are the expert… you tell me”
b) Lawyer →Memory!

28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”
(TEACH) - I can see Jesus with a little smile!

a) Let’s slow down – This is a very interesting answer that Jesus gives.
    a. We know – eternal life is only attained by putting our faith in Jesus. NOT BY DOING!
b) So why would Jesus to this guy?
    a. Jesus knew the lawyer could not live up to this. BL tells us only perfect one is JESUS.
    b. Think about it TO ALWAYS LOVE GOD WITH… and to love our neighbors as our selves???
    c. We by nature are selfish.

ILL – selfie (fun – breath)
Like the Lawyer we can’t do this..

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

a) NO HUMILITY – PRIDE TO PROVE HIS POINT–
    a. Humility = would have allowed Jesus to talk to him about grace
    b. LIKE A GOOD LAWYER → Technically →
b) Who is my neighbor?? – bc if I do this right, I will get eternal life!
    a. This is important bc Jews back then only thought they were obligated to socially, materially and physically to

care for other Jews ONLY → my fellow Jew is my neighbor ….

b. BUT JESUS IS ABOUT TO BLOW THIS UP → and now gets to the heart of this parable!

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

a) Road going down (Jerusalem is up in elevation) – valley of the shadow of death. this would happen in this dangerous road. → people would travel in groups. HE GETS ATTACKED! → LEFT TO DIE
b) PRIEST -> religious leader, the one you would think had compassion.
    a. Moves to the other side of the road
    b. He was responsible to perform the duties of the temple…
        i. if he touched a dead body or blood - Ceremonially unclean (cant do his job) → cant perform his RELIGIOUS DUTIES → Cleansing rituals!
    c. INCONVENIENCE → SELFISHNESS

As true followers of Christ, sometimes we need to get our hands dirty and get in a ditch to help people.

32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

a) LEVITE →

a. leaders in the temple of the time that would perform all of the duties of the temple. Assist the priest. Help maintain the temple. They were also uncharged of the worship in the temple.
b. In other words, they were also leaders and servant in the church. They ran the experience team, the auditorium, the sang on the worship team, serve the house of God.
d. Again, religious leaders who we would think would have stopped → INCONVENIENCE → Selfishness bc of the same reasons.

This lawyer is now hearing that the two religious leaders who should have had compassion and love their neighbor did not do this…

Let's keep reading…

33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

NOW THIS IS A CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENT -

a) At this point this Jewish expert of the law is uncomfortable and uneasy...

b) Why? Explain Samaritans at this time

1.- Long standing hostility, prejudice and animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans.

2.- You see around 723 B.C. the Asyrians came over to Israel and besieged Israel (EXLAIN) – Settle in Samaria

3.- They kids = SAMARITANS

c) When Jews get their land back = Samaritans as HALF BREEDS/ not really jews not really asyrians / → YOU ARE NOT ONE OF US!

d) So in Jesus day there was so much prejudice and animosity and dislike for these Samaritans.

- And here come Jesus using him as they example of the good guys in this story!

NOW as Jesus ends the story he asks the Lawyer…

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

a) Jesus flips the question –
   a. The lawyer wanted to know who is my neighbor and Jesus asked him basically are you acting neighborly??

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

a) He can't even say the Samaritan… "the one" → PREJUDICE
b) Go and do likewise → Jesus by saying all shows the lawyer that it's impossible for him to live up to what he originally answered.

2 major lessons from this story:

1. – We can't give what we don't have.

P- Jesus makes it very clear in this story that we need something more than religion and DOING in order to be able to Love God and Love our neighbor!

a) **Remember that main point of this parable was Jesus addressing the question about Eternal life. How do we attain eternal life?**

In this story:
This lawyer had religion, rituals, knowledge but in his attempt to test Jesus, he exposes the problem with religion…

a) **there is not enough DOING for us to inherit eternal life.**
   - **His answer to Jesus was about doing two critical things that we he was unable to do on HIS own…**

b) **Religion will not save you, or even help you love GOD MORE OR those neighbors that are hard to love.**

c) **Only as we receive the unconditional love of Jesus, the forgiveness, and that grace that covers all of our sin, are we able to love God and love our neighbor as our selves. Most importantly, it is only through Jesus, that we receive the gift of salvation. The gift of eternal life.**

Many of us here today come to church and believe in the biblical principles that we teach but are not in relationship with Jesus. You like Jesus but you don't follow HIM!

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING – WE MAY THINK WE ARE THE GOOD SAMARITAN IN THE STORY BUT WE ARE NOT → WE ARE THAT "CERTAIN MAN ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD"

And Jesus, is the good Samaritan in this story.

(PREACH) We are that desperate man on the side of the road in need of help and salvation.

a) **SIN – addiction, our choices, anger, unfaithful, liars…. LEAVE SPIRITUALLY - broken and beat up by the side of the road**

that we call LIFE → Sin causes us to spiritually end up in that place.

And like this "certain man":

b) **Religion has passed us by and it didn't help, position didn't help, the things of this world didn't help…**

(PREACH)

THE GOOD NEWS → is that good Samaritan stops, and not only saves this man but restores his life. Helps to put him back together and redeems his life.

- **broken pieces of life…**
- **broken marriage, the bankruptcy, the addiction, the sexual immorality, the compulsive lying, and all those broken pieces of our lives**
- **he heals them and puts our life back together, He restores us and sets us in a new path in life.**

The bible says that (Romans) We all have fallen short of the glory of God.

d) **Only through Jesus Christ we can attain eternal life in Heaven and not hell (apart from God), be save from sin.**

Real relationship with Jesus.

Explain salvation. (John 3:16)
Prayer of salvation. (every eye closed and every head bowed)

2. **– As followers of Jesus we have a responsibility to our neighbors.**

P - Jesus came to break off and change the elitist and exclusivity that the religious people of the time lived by. He came and challenge the religious leaders to embrace everyone that He embraced and came to die for, especially those who society said were not worth it.

Isn't interesting that in this story

→ the religious leaders didn't do a thing to help this man in desperate need. But it was the outcast in that society that did something and helped the neighbor in need.
MAY WE NOT BE LIKE THESE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO HAD ALL THE RITUALS DOWN BUT IGNORED THAT WHICH JESUS DID NOT.

So, Who is our neighbor? – Today

Millions of children and families around the world who are starving and struggling to find food.
→we get uncomfortable and don't really want to hear it because it inconveniences us or maybe we feel like its such a big problem that i cant really do anything about it so we turn and walk the other way.

Homeless people in our community → we see them and we say:
- "I don't give them money bc they will spend it in drugs or alcohol" – and we do nothing.
- "they look that they could get a job, I will not support laziness"… and so we ignore it and do nothing about it.

ILL – Roman challenging my faith in this.

The reality is that no matter if they are addicts, or if they are out on their luck, this is who Jesus came to help. The outcast and the marginalized by society.

People of a different race or ethnic background → some of still may have notions and stereotypes because of our up bringing, or what society and the media pushes on us.
- Pastor Matt challenge a couple of weeks ago!

It's people with different political views and angry people → who we criticize and look down on.

It's the Boss who is rude. Who doesn't know Jesus. It is the co-worker or family member who drives us nuts. → Jesus came for them.

Students – it is the girl that everyone calls a hoe at school.
It is the awkward kid that has no one to sit with at lunch. Our neighbor is the person everyone is laughing at. → what are we going to do about this?

How about the elderly and the handicap in our community → who are often completely forgotten.

ILL – Lady with kids at the library.

→ Seeing our neighbors through Jesus' eyes. HE changes OUR SELFISH hearts to COMPASSION and SELFLESNESS – to pray and to do something about it.

What do we do about our neighbor? What is our responsibility as followers of Jesus? We receive the love of Jesus and now we get to share that same love with others.

1. Challenge everyone to take a step here with the church:
    a. Sponsor a compassion kid. (global) compassion.com
    b. Plan to take a mission's trip in this next year.(global)
    c. Sign up for our next serve your city opportunity. (local)
        i. Opportunities – DTL
            1. Help with our serve days at DTL
            2. After school programs
    d. Mentor at Y/A or Students. (local) - Nextlevelchurch.com/serve
    e. Give to KB - nextlevelchurch.com/give

2. Challenge your faith outside of church: → (First PRAY)
    a. Share the good news about Jesus – with someone in your world who is not n relationship w/ Jesus.

b. **Stop and get a homeless person a meal and if you can pray for them. (use wisdom?)**
c. **Do something nice for that neighbor in your neighborhood that no one likes. (cookies and Jesus loves you card?)**
d. **Students – go and sit with that kid at lunch that no one likes.**

Summarize the story – We need to walk with Jesus daily, so that we can love God and others like He invites us to do. With compassion, with grace and with a conviction that only comes from Him!

Close -

Pray – For us to experience Jesus daily so that we can see our neighbors like He did. And, live out this love for GOD and for our neighbors.