

133. Loving God and Our Neighbor (Luke 10:25-42)

Prayer: Dear Lord, Your word tells us to love You completely, and to love other people the same as we love ourselves. Please help us learn to humbly love and serve each other. More important, help us trust in You more than anything, and then humbly love and serve You. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Luke 10:25-28. A Jewish lawyer wanted to test Jesus. He asked, "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus asked, "What does the law say?" The lawyer answered, "The law says love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, all your mind. Love your neighbor the same as you love yourself." Jesus said, "Your answer is correct. Do that, and you will live."

- What the Jewish lawyer ask Jesus? Did the lawyer already know the answer?
- Did Jesus agree with the lawyer's answer?

Luke 10:29-35. The lawyer wanted to make sure he was correct. He asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus said, "A man traveled from Jerusalem to Jericho. While he traveled, robbers attacked him. They took everything and beat him. They left him almost dead. It happened, a priest traveled the same road. The priest saw the man, but walked around him. A Levite also traveled that road. He saw the man, but walked around him. A man from Samaria traveled that road and saw the man. He felt sorry for the man, cleaned his wounds (hurts), and poured oil and wine on the wounds. The Samaritan put the man on his donkey and took him to a hotel. The Samaritan took care of him there. The next day, the Samaritan took out money to pay for 2 days of work. He gave the money to the hotel owner and said, "Take care of the man. If you spend more, I will pay you back."

- The lawyer wanted to make sure he was correct. Who defines real love, us or God?
- Jesus told a story about robbers beating up a man. How did the Samaritan show love for the man? Remember how much Samaritans and Jews liked each other. Did the Samaritan show real love for this Jewish man?

- Who is our neighbor? Who should we love?

Luke 10:36-37. Jesus said, “The robbers beat up a man, and later three men saw the injured man. Which one was like a neighbor for that hurt man?” The lawyer answered, “The man who showed mercy was a neighbor.” Jesus said, “You go and do the same.”

- Now the lawyer understood what kind of love God wants. Can he go and love the same as the Samaritan did, the same as God wants? Can we love like that?
- If we can't love perfectly like God wants, then the lawyer is stuck. How can we inherit eternal life?

Luke 10:38-40. Jesus and the disciples continued traveling. Jesus entered a town. A woman named Martha invited Jesus into her home. Martha had a sister named Mary. Mary sat near Jesus' feet and listened to Jesus teach. But Martha was busy working and preparing things. Martha came to Jesus and said, “Lord, my sister is letting me do all the work! Tell her to help me!”

- What was Martha doing? What was Mary doing?
- Why did Martha become upset?

Luke 10:41-42. The Lord answered, “Martha, Martha. You are so worried, and many things bother you so much. Truly, only a few things are important. Really, you only need one thing. Mary chose the good thing. I will not take that away from her.”

- While Martha was serving, was she showing love for Jesus? While Mary was listening to Jesus teach, was she showing love for Jesus? Which one, serving or listening, was more important?