

## Loving Without Conditions

Luke 10:25-37

Today, I have been asked to bring you a message of encouragement from the book of Luke, chapter 10: verses 25-37. We will look at the parable of The Good Samaritan.

We will see a moment in the of a:

- Lawyer
- Priest
- Levite
- Jew
- A Good Samaritan and a destination

Each one of these individuals have a part to play on the Jericho Road. Yet, before I read the scripture, I would like to share with you a story about a young man named Tom and a fragile, timid, withdrawn child by the name of Reggie.

### **Story of Reggie and Tom**

## **Let us Pray**

*Play in the background and start to fade out prior to the "Amen" if you can.*

<https://youtu.be/o80dN1AIU7o>

Now, take a moment to let go of everything that is currently on your mind. Let go of yesterday and don't worry about today. Close your eyes for a moment. Erase all of your thoughts of what you need to do when this service is over. Listen to God's word. Somebody here today is looking for a blessing. Somebody here today has a decision to make. Somebody here today is hurting and hiding that pain behind a smile. Give it over to Jesus. Lean on him and trust that he is able to do what no other power can do. Somebody needs to let go of a grudge today. Somewhere, somebody is ready to give up. I ask you father, to stop by that house, that job, that place of abode. Wrap your arms around that somebody that has been told that they are a nobody. Let them feel your holy spirit today. Give them the peace that is beyond all understanding. Lift them up that have been beat down and beat up. Let them know that in this time of crisis that there is still good news in your word, your will and your way. Somebody has tried to do it their way for a long time. They are lost and can't find their way. I ask you to be that light in that tunnel of life in which they find themselves. Show them a better way in Jesus. I pray for restoration today for somebody. While you are walking the airwaves today Father, stop by Fil-Am Community church. Stop by each household today and bless like you've never blessed them before. Restore a faith that is dwindling and a hope that is fading. Give them the strength to let go and let God have his way in their lives today, in Jesus name I pray, Amen and Amen.

Read the scripture and show slides:

**Slide 7:** And behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life. (Matthew 19:16 – similar question for different reason)

He said unto him,

**Slide 8:** what is written in the law? How readest thou?

And he answering said,

**Slide 9:** thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength and with all they mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.

And he said unto him,

**Slide 10:** thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor? 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. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise, a Levite when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him. And went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 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. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?

**Slide 11:** And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, “Go, and do thou likewise.

### **The message:**

This lawyer was not a bankruptcy lawyer, a corporate lawyer, immigration lawyer or a criminal lawyer. He was one who studied and knew the “Law of Moses” also called “The Pentateuch” or “The Torah”. Jesus knew his background and instead of answering his question with an answer, Jesus said, you tell me lawyer, what the law says. The lawyer would answer with two scriptures from two books of the law.

The first,

**Slide 12:** Deuteronomy 6:5; “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

**Slide 13:** The second, Leviticus 19:18; “Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the Lord.”

Also see

**Slides 14-15:** Matthew 22:37-40: Jesus said unto him, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

This Lawyer was not a criminal lawyer, divorce lawyer, immigration lawyer, but one who read and knew the “Laws of Moses”, also called the “Pentateuch” or the “Torah”. Jesus teaches us that it is **important to:**

**Point One: Know your audience**

The Priest and the Levite were examples of the Lawyer speaking to Jesus. They were men of God. They would be recognized by anyone wherever they traveled, and they were used to a certain type of respect. They also were quite arrogant in their ways. Yet, Jesus did not condemn the Lawyer. Instead, He painted a picture that the Lawyer could understand. When you come to Jesus, **He will**

**Point Two: Meet you where you are**

The late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. read this parable about the Good Samaritan, he said, “And you know, it's possible that the priest and the Levite looked over that man on the ground and wondered if the robbers were still around. Or it's possible that they felt that the man on the ground was merely faking. And he was acting like he had been robbed and hurt, in order to seize them over there, lure them there for quick and easy seizure. And so the first question that the Levite asked was, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But then the Good

Samaritan came by. And he reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?" When we love without condition, it is easier to see the needs of others and not be so concerned about ourselves.

It is important in this life at this time, that we ask God to help us find the **ability to:**

**Point 3: Overlook the Past and see the Right Now**

You must understand that the Samaritans and the Jews did not get along because of something in their past. A good example of this is in the Book of St. John, chapter 4, verses 4-9, when Jesus stopped to rest at a well and a Samaritan woman stopped by. He asked her for some water and her response was: "How is it, you being a Jew, ask drink of me, a Samaritan woman? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." There is a blessing in this meeting, but it still does not tell us if Jesus ever got that cup of water! So, the Good Samaritan is not just a "good" person, but someone who is able to overlook the past and see the right now. Notice that a love without conditions sees something wrong and does something to help **while**

**Point 4: Expecting nothing in return**

Doing something for someone with no expectation of reciprocation. In other words, like the good Samaritan, don't wait around for a *Thank You* a *handshake* or a *hug*. Whatever you do on this Jericho road of life, do it with the love of God in your heart. Know that when you bless someone down here, God has a greater blessing waiting for you up there. Jesus was letting the Lawyer know that although he was book smart and dressed well, had the best of everything, that "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God..." Romans 3:23. Out of all that he had right, he still had some work to do.

**Point 5: Be ready to "GO" and "DO" likewise**

Jesus said two things to the Lawyer that I believe are important to all of us today. First when the Lawyer was able to answer his own question about the requirements under the law, how to inherit eternal life, Jesus said, **“this do and you shall live.”** When Jesus finished the parable and asked who of the three passersby was neighbor to the man left for dead and the Lawyer answered, the one whom showed mercy, Jesus said, **“Go and do likewise.”**

That man lying on the ground could be anyone of us. He is symbolic of our lives when we fall on rough times and it seems like nobody cares. The Good Samaritan is a picture of the type of pure, sacrificial love that we should pray to be able to exhibit to everyone no matter what they have done to us or what they think about us. No matter where they are from, their nationality, background or color of their skin. Yet, knowing that we will not always pass the test, like the lawyer, let us **“...not think more highly of ourselves than we should”**, Romans 12:3. **“Let your light so shine before men that they might see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16. Go and Do likewise my brothers and sisters and love without condition!**

