

Luke 10:25-42

Luke 10:25-42 ²⁵ And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? ²⁶ He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? 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. ²⁸ And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. ²⁹ But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? 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. ³¹ And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, 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. 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. ³⁶ Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? ³⁷ And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

³⁸ Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. ⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: ⁴² But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

In this passage we read of a lawyer questioning Jesus. To the Jew The Law was everything and coming from God it is for it's intended purpose. This man studied the law, it was his occupation to know it. He could quote it but apparently was missing important truths from it and how to put it into practice. His first question to Jesus was, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" and Jesus wisely put the question back to him. The first part of the lawyer's answer was merely the summation of the first four commandments given in Exodus and Deuteronomy; "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". This is also quoted in Matthew 22 and Mark 16. From reading this passage I believe the lawyer was prideful and felt he really loved God with his whole being, just as he quoted. The second part of the lawyer's answer was the summation of last six commandments dealing with our relationship with others. This is where the lawyer was tripped up and he very foolishly asked "Who is my neighbour?". As the passage tells us that

he asked the question in an attempt to justify himself. This too is something we need to guard against. When we read/hear God's Word and it convicts us of the wrong in our own heart do we humbly accept it and get in line with God or do we give some petty excuse to justify our actions.

Jesus illustrates this beautifully with the story of the good Samaritan. Especially of note in the story, Jesus makes a Samaritan the one who showed kindness. To the Jews in Jerusalem this was like being served humble pie as they did not like the Samaritans and looked down on them. Not only did the Samaritan take care of someone who probably despised him and his people but this kind man went out of his way to make sure the injured Jew got the care he needed. The Samaritan put much time, effort, and money in to the injured man's care. I must admit there are people that it would be difficult to care about if they were known to be rude or inconsiderate. Adding to the command to love thy neighbour we must also remember what we read earlier in Luke 6:27²⁷ But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.

Pro 25:21-22²¹ If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: ²² For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

Rom 12:20-21 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Our neighbour is anyone we come in to contact with an not just those that live nearby or are kind in return. It goes much deeper than just loving our neighbour but even our enemies and even if it is inconvenient for us at times.. In the flesh it's impossible but by God's grace and power we can. Even loving God is impossible without knowing God for God is love. We love God because he first loved us (1Jo 4:19)

Next we read of Jesus going to Mary and Martha's house. These women were sisters of Lazarus whom Jesus would later raise from the dead. In contrast one sat at the feet of Jesus and the other was busy serving. Martha had a servants heart but like so often in my own life, and probably yours, I add many things to my to-do list that isn't really that important in contrast to spending time with our Lord and Saviour. Hopefully we'll learn to make time for the one who gave his life for us, the one who gives living water, and eternal life. The things of this world will all pass away.

Chorus from the Hymn "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.



As always I hope you enjoyed the lesson, may God bless you and your families. Please feel free to share it with others.