

AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Luke 10:25-29

Introduction:

1. Please notice the question asked by the lawyer . . . “And who is my neighbor?”
2. Jesus immediately gave him his answer. (Luke 10:30-37)
3. Jesus tells of three different men who pass by the injured man on the Jericho road: a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan.

I. THERE IS THE SIN OF SECTARIANISM – THE HARDNESS OF THE HEART TOWARD OTHERS.

- A. Sometimes our loved ones, our friends, our neighbors, even our fellow employees offend us.
 1. Sometimes they do things that hurt us.
 2. Sometimes they don't do things and this too can hurt us.
 3. Sometimes they say things that offend us.
 4. Sometimes they ignore us.
 5. Not fulfilling God's commands shows hardness of heart.
- B. What is our attitude at such an offense?
 1. Do we wish to retaliate?
 2. Do we become critical of them?
 3. Are we unforgiving?
 4. Do we care that they are going to hell?
- C. God commands us that we are to have a forgiving, compassionate attitude toward those who offend us.
 1. We are not to take matters into our own hands.

Scripture: **Romans 12:19** “*Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*”

Romans 12:20 “*Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*”
 2. We are to forgive the offender.

Scripture: **Matthew 18:21-22** “*Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.*”

Scripture: **Matthew 6:14-15** “*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*”
 3. We are to love the offender.

Scripture: **Matthew 5:43-48**

II. THERE ARE MANY TROUBLED PEOPLE WHO NEED COMPASSION AND LOVING HELP.

- A. Our loved ones, our friends, our neighbors are in need of someone to care and show compassion and have understanding.
 1. We do not know what goes on behind closed doors.
 2. We do not know the trouble that is deeply imbedded in ones heart.

Illustration: Young man in trouble.
 3. But a kind word, a forgiving attitude, a display of concern can help more than you could imagine.

Illustration: Old man gives young boy a penny.
- B. We need to put ourselves in their place and feel their need.
 1. Some might say, “How are we going to reach them?”
 2. Put yourself in their place.

Illustration: Man helps bury child.

C. We need to remember they are lost and without Christ.

III. IF THERE IS A NEED FOR YOU TO PRAY FOR A HEART OF COMPASSION AND CONCERN – THEN PRAY.

A. If your heart is not tender-hearted then you should pray that it be so.

Scripture: **Ephesians 4:31-32** *“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

B. If you cannot forgive those that have hurt you then you should pray that you can.

Scripture: **Ephesians 4:32b** *“... forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

C. If you do not have a heart filled with compassion and concern then you need to pray that it is.

Scripture: **I John 4:20-21** *“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”*

Conclusion: Who is your neighbor?

1. What kind of Christian are you?
2. Do you love and forgive those who love and forgive you?
3. Do you have the mind of Christ?
4. Someday it will be too late.

Illustration: Old man denies wife who dies. S11880