

“Go and Do Likewise”

Luke 10: 25-37

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What does it mean to be a ‘Good Samaritan’? We hear the phrase ‘Good Samaritan’ as part of our regular language these days.

Does this parable merely tell us to go out and do good deeds? Certainly, as followers of Christ, good deeds are important, but that is not the point of Jesus’ teaching of the Good Samaritan. We naturally love those we share much in common with; we usually love our families and those who like or love us. We will help perfect strangers on the highway (I certainly hope we do that). However, the point of Jesus’ parable is to even love those we dismiss as outcasts and enemies. Think of someone or a group of people who would fit that category for you.

Who is my neighbour? The shock of the word ‘Samaritan’!

“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

We are to love everyone! It is not enough to not hate and to be indifferent. It is so important to be counter culture in this respect. Two pieces of scripture come to mind: John 13: 34-35 and Matthew 25:40 *‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,^[a] you did it to me.’*

It depends how you look at it. How do you see God and how do you see others? We can see the love of God through creation, through Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

We have the gift of creation through our creator God. God’s creation is incomprehensively beautiful – and our response is to give praise and thanksgiving to God. The Son of God, Jesus Christ is the human incarnation of God, who shows us all in a personal way that God did not stay far away, but motivated by love, did not let any obstacle of our sin and injustice get in the way of visibly manifesting that sacrificial love to us and all creation. We respond with receiving God’s gift of Grace and share that love deep love with others (Jesus loves you!). The Holy Spirit is the invisible presence of God to help us discern his will and give us the words and the wisdom and strength to go on each day. We respond with prayers of thanksgiving knowing that we belong to God and do not walk alone.

How can we change to ‘go and do likewise’? As people we tend to love those who are similar to us – those who think the same about other groups of people, politics, theology, moral issues, etc. We can easily create divisions with others and see the other as the enemy. Jesus teaching of the Good Samaritan tells us to be the welcoming and inviting church Christ intends it to be. To love those who are unlovable is not easy, so it is important to know and love God and one another in order to mature in how we see others – with compassion. You may not feel the compassion, but that does not matter. This is not an option, but a command from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: *“Go and do likewise! When you do this, you will live! Amen.*