

“THE LOVING NEIGHBOR”

I. Luke 10:25-37

A. We've been talking about love the past few weeks...

- 1) Abiding in God's love and the impact of God's love... "The Beetles said all you need is love and then they broke up." - Larry Norman
- 2) Today we turn to Dr. Luke, the NT who penned the most...

B. Luke 10:25-37 The Good Samaritan... (The Loving Neighbor)

- 1) A lawyer puts Jesus to the test... Jesus puts the lawyer to the test...
- 2) The lawyer summarizes the Law well: '*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind and love your neighbor as yourself.*' (cf Dt. 6:8 & Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:34-40 & Mk. 12:28-34...) But then the lawyer tries to justify himself...
- 3) Jesus knows the lawyer has a narrow view of who his neighbor actually is so he tells the Parable of the Good Samaritan. (Good Samaritan = Jewish oxymoron.)
- 4) Samaritans were viewed as spiritual half breeds but Jesus loved them... (e.g. Woman at the Sychar well; the one out of ten lepers who returned; His response when James & John wanted to call down fire; His Gospel commission in Acts...)
- 5) A man is beaten and robbed on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Left bleeding and dying, a priest and Levite lend him no aid. A Samaritan however ministers to the man's wounds and needs, demonstrates genuine love, shows he's the true neighbor.
- 6) "*The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But... the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'"* - Martin Luther King, Jr.

C. Let's examine the two ways of inheriting eternal life...

- 1) *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind*- not sometimes but all the time; not 99.9 percent of the time-- all the time... James 2:8-13...
- 2) Love your neighbor as yourself; with Jesus' broader definition of neighbor injected into your law-keeping behavior... Can you say, "FAIL!"
- 3) OR Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved... (The truth is, Jesus did keep the law completely. He actually loved His Father with all His heart, soul, strength, and mind. He actually loved His neighbors, even sinners and enemies...) So when we place our faith in Him, in His righteous life, His death- with our sins imputed upon Him, His resurrection from the dead--that faith will truly enable us to inherit eternal life... And that life, new and abundant, comes steeped in His love and His love transforms us! It causes us to love God as never before and it causes us to see and respond to our neighbors--even in the broadest sense--with a new found love and compassion that only God's Spirit can wrought within us. (Quote by Jerry Bridges & Bob Bevington.)

D. I don't know about you, but I want us to be all about God's love...

- 1) I want God's Love to be the hallmark of our church, the ever growing manifestation of who we are as a family of believers...
- 2) I want Love to be the growing reality in the Body of Christ worldwide.
- 3) *By this shall all men know that we are His disciples...* And as they come to know that we are His disciples, may their hearts be opened to the greatest expression of love in all the universe, the Gospel- Jesus crucified, dead, buried, risen, and reigning!
* Jesus is the true neighbor and we were all spiritual half breeds, orphans, self righteous experts with regards to what we thought was right and wrong. We've been beaten and robbed and left for dead... We were the ones who passed by on the others side... We were the robbers who carried out the attack... We were the ones who tried to justify ourselves when we were heartless and clueless, self-righteous sinners, and God's enemies... But then came Jesus, full of love and truth, and He saved us... And He will save you too!

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Luke 10:25-37 (ESV)

25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" **26** He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" **27** And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." **28** And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." **29** But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" **30** Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. **31** Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. **32** So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan, as he journeyed,

came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. **34** He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. **35** And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' **36** Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" **37** He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Quote by Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But... the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'"
- "I've Been To The Mountain Top" Speech delivered in Memphis, TN., April 3, 1968.

James 2:10-13 (NKJV)

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; **9** but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. **11** For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. **12** So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. **13** For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Excerpt by Jerry Bridges & Bob Bevington - The Bookends of Christian Life

"Imagine there's a moral ledger recording every event of your entire life--all your thoughts, words, actions, even your motives. You might think of it as a mixture of good deeds and bad deeds, with hopefully more good than bad. The Scriptures, however, tell us that even our righteous deeds are unclean in the sight of God (Isaiah 64:6). So Jesus has a perfectly righteous moral ledger, and we have a completely sinful one. However, God took our sins and charged them to Christ, leaving us with a clean sheet... The word, justified in Paul's usage means to be counted righteous by God. Even though in ourselves we're completely unrighteous, God counts us righteous because he has appointed Christ to be our representative and substitute. Therefore when Christ lived a perfect life, in God's sight we lived a perfect life. When Christ died on the cross to pay for our sins, we died on the cross... There's an old play on the word justified--that means "just-as-if-I'd never sinned." But there's another way of saying it: "just-as-if-I'd always obeyed." Both are true."

- Jerry Bridges & Bob Bevington, The Bookends of the Christian Life, p.p. 24-26.

Some Excellent Video Clips

"On The Road To Jericho" by Keith Green

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1HGQOsgyik>

Showing Love Is Like Breathing - John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcRxLKSuzPw>

Pain & Suffering - John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Roi32h8TEJM>

Why Does God Allow Suffering? CRI Article by Lee Strobel

<http://www.equip.org/articles/why-does-god-allow-suffering/?msource=EC130419WKLY>

"This Little Light of Mine" George Beverly Shea, Cliff Barrows, & Billy Graham :-)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISvQzMpe5Q0>

Bonus Stuff

Quote by John Piper

"Ten sermons could be preached on ten different issues raised by this parable. But I want you to see this one crucial thing: Jesus tells a story that changes the question from What kind of person is my neighbor? to What kind of person am I? He changes the question from What status of people are worthy of my love? to How can I become the kind of person whose compassion disregards status?"

Quote by Martin Luther

"The most damnable and pernicious heresy that has every plagued the mind of man is the idea that somehow he could make himself good enough to deserve to live with an all-holy God."

Quote by John Bunyan

"'Run, John, run,' the law demands
But gives me neither feet nor hands.
Better news the Gospel brings,
It bids me fly and gives me wings."

Gospel Legend, George Beverly Shea, Passes Away At 104

Singing News has learned that legendary Gospel singer, George Beverly Shea, has passed away at the age of 104.

CHARLOTTE, N.C., April 16, 2013 - George Beverly Shea, 104, of Montreat, North Carolina, soloist of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), died this evening (April 16th) following a brief illness.

Since George Beverly Shea first sang for Graham in 1943 on the Chicago radio hymn program, "Songs in the Night," Shea has faithfully carried the Gospel in song to every continent and every state in the Union. Graham's senior by ten years, Shea devotedly preceded the evangelist in song in nearly every Crusade over the span of more than one-half century.

Shea was the recipient of ten Grammy nominations, a Grammy Award in 1965, and was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Grammy organization in 2011. He was also a member of the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame (1978), and was inducted into the Religious Broadcasting Hall of Fame in February 1996. Shea was also inducted into the inaugural class of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists' "Hall of Faith" in 2008.

"I first met Bev Shea while in Chicago when he was on Moody Radio," said Billy Graham. "As a young man starting my ministry, I asked Bev if he would join me. He said yes and for over 60 years we had the privilege of ministering together across the country and around the world. Bev was one of the most humble, gracious men I have ever known and one of my closest friends. I loved him as a brother. My prayer for his wife, Karlene, and his children, Ron and Elaine, is that God will strengthen them during this time."

Born in Winchester, Ontario, Canada, where his father was a Wesleyan Methodist minister, Shea's first public singing was in the choir of his father's church. Between Crusade, radio, and television dates in many countries, he sang at hundreds of concerts and recorded more than 70 albums of sacred music. At age 23 he composed the music to one of his best known solos, "I'd Rather Have Jesus."

"Even though Bev was 10 years older than my father, he never acted his age," said Franklin Graham. "He was absolute fun to be with. Bev was one of the most gracious and unassuming men I have known. He was always encouraging and supportive, a man of deep faith and strong commitment to Jesus Christ."

Shea is survived by his wife, Karlene, and his children from his first marriage, Ronald and Elaine. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Erma, who died in 1976.

Ron, born in 1948 in Chicago, graduated from Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill., in 1971. For more than 30 years, Ron has been an associate in Crusade ministry through the BGEA, assisting in preparatory work for evangelistic crusades involving Mr. Graham and more recently for Franklin Graham's ministry. He is married to the former Kathy Ford.

Lawyers

Author Unknown

A Rabbi, a Hindu and a lawyer were driving late at night in the country when their car expired. They set out to find help, and came to a farmhouse. When they knocked at the door, the farmer explained that he had only two beds, and one of the three had to sleep in the barn with the animals. The three quickly agreed.

The Rabbi said he would sleep in the barn and let the other two have the beds. Ten minutes after the Rabbi left, there was a knock on the bedroom door. The Rabbi entered exclaiming, "I can't sleep in the barn; there is a pig in there. It's against my religion to sleep in the same room with a pig!"

The Hindu said he would sleep in the barn, as he had no religious problem with pigs. However, about five minutes later, the Hindu burst through the bedroom door saying, "There's a cow in the barn! I can't sleep in the same room as a cow! It's against my religion!" The lawyer, anxious to get to sleep, said he'd go to the barn, as he had no problem sleeping with animals.

In two minutes, the bedroom door burst open and the pig and the cow entered...