

Love Your Neighbour

Luke 10 v 25-37

Context:

Rabbis have calculated that there are 613 laws contained in the Halakah, which is the written Law of Moses (Torah) plus the oral traditions of the elders (Mesorah). These were summarised in the 10 Commandments – the first four relating to our vertical relationship with God and the remaining six concerning our horizontal relationship with other people. We see in our study today that Jesus masterfully reduced the laws and commands to the big two (v 27). Luke then goes on in the rest of the chapter to show us what the big two look like in practice and he does this in reverse order. So, today we are going to explore a practical illustration of the second great commandment (v 30-37), and in a few weeks' time we will look at the first great commandment in action (v 38-42).

Observation:

1. Who stood up to speak to Jesus and why (v 25)?
2. What did he ask Jesus (v 25)?
3. How did Jesus reply in v 26?
4. What was the man's response in v 27?
5. How did Jesus react to the man's answer (v 28)?
6. What further question did the man ask and why in v 29?
7. Where was the man travelling from and to in Jesus' story and what happened to him (v 30)?
8. Who were the first two to come across the man and what did they do (v 31-32)?
9. Who came along next and what did he do (v 33-35)?
10. What question did Jesus ask at the end of the story in v 36?
11. How did the man reply in v 37 and what was Jesus' final command to him?

Meaning:

1. Why do you think the expert in the law wanted to test Jesus and what do you think he meant by the question he asked (v 25)?
2. In the man's reply to Jesus he quotes two OT verses from the Torah (Deuteronomy 6 v 5 and Leviticus 19 v 18) which summarise the Jewish Law in two big commands. Read the 10 commandments in Exodus 20 v 1-17 and discuss how these two big commands quoted by the expert in the law are a perfect summary of the 10.
3. What do you think Jesus meant by his reply in v 28?
4. What do you think was behind the man's further question in v 29 and how do you think most Israelites would have answered that question?
5. Why do you think both the Priest and the Levite passed by the man who had been attacked in Jesus' story (v 30-32) and what do you think would have been the reaction of those who were listening to the story when they heard this?
6. Samaritans were descendants of Gentiles who had been transplanted into Northern Israel from surrounding nations by the King of Assyria hundreds of years before Jesus'

day. They replaced Israelites who were taken into exile, and they brought with them their own culture and religion. They intermarried with the remaining Israelite population and their descendants, known as Samaritans, lived in great hostility with the Jews, who regarded them as being of dubious racial and religious heritage. With this background in mind, how do you think those who listened to Jesus' story would have reacted when Jesus first mentioned the Samaritan in v 33 and how would they have reacted when they heard how he treated the victim (v 33-35)?

7. How would you articulate the moral of the story (v 36-37) and how is this an illustration of the second great command (v 27)?

Application:

1. The expert in the law was probably trying to limit the extent and scope of the command to love our neighbour as ourselves with his question in v 29. How might we be guilty of doing something similar to him and to what extent does Jesus' story undermine the man's attitude and approach?
2. Can you retell Jesus's story in a modern setting, using different characters? Who would be the victim and the equivalent of the Priest, the Levite and the Samaritan?
3. How is God challenging you through today's study?

Pray:

- Pray for God's grace to love our neighbour as ourselves whatever the cost.

Sermon Notes: