

BEING CHURCH

S. Discovering Service



24 MAY, 2020

*Please click on text in **RED** to listen to music or sing along.
When finished, close and return to this page.
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Good morning and welcome to worship! We trust you have enjoyed the weather this past week, and as advised by government, perhaps engaged socially with extended family and close friends. This morning, we continue our journey exploring BEING CHURCH and today, “Discover Service”. The passage we are looking at is known popularly as the “Parable of the Good Samaritan”; perhaps we might revise the section heading in the context of our learning from God’s Word today. May God bless you as you turn your hearts, minds and souls to worship Him and His Son Jesus our Christ, on this day we celebrate as Ascension Day!

LISTEN **Lord We've Come to Worship**

PRAYER

Holy and Eternal God! We praise you this morning, that Jesus accomplished what He came from Heaven to do! Thank You that He conquered death, and praise You, He is with You now, waiting to return at Your appointed time, to claim us His Church, into Your eternal Kingdom!

We worship you with our heart, soul and mind; every cell in our body cries out to you, longing to be who you made us to be: in Your image, forever! Fill us with your Holy Spirit this moment in time, that we may experience You as our God. We ask in the Name of Jesus, who with You is to be praised, worshipped and honoured! **AMEN.**

HYMN **Guide me, O Though Great Redeemer!**

SCRIPTURE READING **Psalm 29**

Praise the Lord, you angels of his; praise his glory and his strength. Praise him for his majestic glory, the glory of his name. Come before him clothed in sacred garments. The voice of the Lord echoes from the clouds. The God of glory thunders through the skies. So powerful is his voice; so full of majesty. It breaks down the cedars. It splits the giant trees of Lebanon. It shakes Mount Lebanon and Mount Sirion. They leap and skip

before him like young calves! The voice of the Lord thunders through the lightning. It resounds through the deserts and shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord spins and topples mighty oaks. It strips forests bare. They whirl and sway beneath the blast. But in his Temple all are praising, "Glory, glory to the Lord." At the Flood the Lord showed his control of all creation. Now he continues to unveil his power. He will give his people strength. He will bless them with peace. *(Praise God for His Word).*

PRAYER

Remember with love and mercy O Lord our God, those who have experienced fear and loss this week: in the city of Calcutta hit by a violent storm, the likes of which has not been seen since since 17th October, 1737; in Pakistan mourning the death of loved ones, colleagues and friends in a horrific plane crash; in Brazil where COVID-19 is said to be out of control; in Guatemala where people are experiencing hunger, the side-effect of the pandemic; for people all over the world, suffering from the loss of jobs and income, whose businesses have been decimated through compulsory lockdown; for families who are feeling the strain in relationships and for the many who feel lost and helpless, desperate and despondent. Have mercy on each of them. May they know and experience Your love, especially those who have declared Jesus as Saviour and decided to follow Him into Your Kingdom. We ask this, knowing your unfailing love for the world, knowing you are listening and will answer this prayer. In the Name of the Risen and Ascended Christ. **AMEN.**

HYMN

Because He lives I can face tomorrow

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:25-42

One day an expert on Moses' laws came to test Jesus' orthodoxy by asking him this question: *Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?*

Jesus replied, *What does Moses' law say about it?*

It says, he replied, that you must 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 you must love your neighbour as yourself.

Absolutely right! Jesus told him. *Do exactly as you have said and you shall live*

The man wanted to justify his lack of love for some kinds of people, so he asked, *Which neighbours? Who is my neighbour?*

Jesus replied with a story: *A Jew travelling down from Jerusalem to Jericho was attacked by bandits. They stripped off his clothes, beat him up and left him lying half dead beside the road.*

By chance a Jewish priest came along; and when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Jewish Temple-assistant walked over, looked at him lying there, and carried on. But a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw him, felt deep compassion. Kneeling beside him the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his donkey and walked along beside him till they came to an inn, where he nursed him through the night. The next day he handed the innkeeper money worth two days' income and told him to take care of the man. 'If his bill runs higher than that,' he said, 'I'll pay the difference the next time I am here.'

"Now which of these three would you say was a neighbour to the bandits' victim?" The man replied, *"The one who showed him compassion."* Jesus said to the expert, *Yes! Now go and do the same.*

LISTEN **Take my life and let it be**

MESSAGE

Stories are great ways of communicating, teaching and learning. The origin of **Parable** (a Greek word) in Hebrew, describes an intelligent, prophetic device used mostly by Rabbis to teach lessons and convey judgements. Jesus' parables taught two audiences simultaneously on two levels, and as such, His *parables* are rich in layers of meaning and understanding. He **IS** the Master Storyteller!

Our narrative in Luke 10 is a **parable**. Jesus is not quoting a factual news item taken from the Jerusalem Post, of an event on the Jerusalem-Jericho road, the day or week before. What could have been correctly reported in the Jerusalem Post of the day might have been, *One day, an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus* (10:25). Wherever He went, Jesus was "tested" by religious and academic authorities who had difficulty accepting His teaching on the law, His preaching about the Kingdom of God, and His healing of every kind of sickness and

disease.¹ This “expert” might well have heard reports of the 72 “*other disciples (whom Jesus) sent ahead in pairs to all the towns and places He planned to visit*”², who returned “*joyfully exclaiming, ‘Lord! Even the demons obey us when we use your Name*”,³ to whom Jesus advised discretion, “*Don’t rejoice because evil spirits obey you! Rejoice because your names are registered in Heaven*”⁴.

So, the expert’s question is strangely poignant, *These 72 people have their names written in Heaven because of what they did. What about me? I am an expert in the Law. What should I do to **INHERIT** eternal life?* i.e. I am a privileged teacher of the law; Eternal life is mine to **INHERIT**, not to earn! What should I do to **INHERIT** it?

Jesus asks the expert to summarise Moses’ law, which he does - the same answer Jesus gave to the expert who asked Him, *Of all the (613) laws, which is the greatest law?*⁵ Not satisfied with Jesus’ response the expert probes, *And who would YOU say is my neighbour?* Imagine the hours of each day over centuries, experts in the law would have spent trying to define, *Who is my neighbour?*

So begins the parable which should be best titled, *Who is my neighbour?*

The parable has five characters, two of whom Jesus quickly dismisses as not relevant to our understanding of *neighbour*: the priest and the Levite.

A Jew (one of our own people), is travelling “**down** from Jerusalem to Jericho”, a road known for highway robbers. This Jew has completed his worship at the Temple, given His tithe, his alms and made sacrifices, and is now returning home. It is likely he left Jerusalem at night, to get back home and back to work in the morning, when he is attacked by a band of very stupid robbers, who should have guessed from the Jew’s direction of travel, he would not have any valuables on him. So they, *attacked him, stripped him off his clothes (and when they found nothing on him) beat him up and left him for dead.* It would have been mid-morning when the priest and the levite passed by (likely having left Jerusalem leisurely after breakfast); some time after, the Samaritan arrives on the scene.

¹ Matthew 4:23

² Luke 10:1

³ Luke 10:17

⁴ Luke 10:20

⁵ Matthew 22:34-40

Suffice it to say at this point, Samaritans and Jews were not the best of friends⁶. When a Jew uttered the word “Samaritan”, it was in a tone of contempt. Some translations use, “*a despised Samaritan*” to capture this tone. Jesus’ listeners would have been at ease - *He knows how we feel about Samaritans!*

Jesus proceeds to build the Samaritan’s character: he arrived and **saw** the wounded man and **felt compassion** for him. The preceding two travellers saw the wounded man and felt nothing. They were righteous, they knew the law, they knew the proper protocols of worship, but compassion was not a natural emotion for them. People were objects, to be taught and to be led in worship.

The Samaritan was probably not trained to perform **triage**, but the moment required quick thinking (forget ‘elf and safety!): having seen the Jew’s condition and made a quick assessment, the Samaritan *soothed his wounds with wine (disinfectant) and olive oil (balm) and bandaged him*. Jesus is describing the basis of reaching out to people in need: the Samaritan used what he had in his possession to attend to the wounded Jew, so must you - use what you **have**, to reach out and meet the needs of those who hurt.

Jesus continues to sketch the character of the Samaritan. *He put the man on his OWN donkey, took him to an inn, where HE took care of him (until the next day)!*

Jesus wants us to examine what we have, not what we **could** have, or what we need to have, to meet the needs of people around us. The excuse, *I don’t have what it takes to do a perfect job Jesus would be proud of*, is misplaced pride.

This parable helps us discover two fundamentals of **service in the Name of Jesus**: 1) to serve is a commitment to journey with the wounded and the healing, the hurt and the hurting, the have and the have nots, as God journeys with us. 2) to serve is not about paying someone to do the work for us. The Samaritan did not pay the inn keeper to do his charitable service for him. The Samaritan enlisted the innkeeper into a partnership: *Join me in serving this man. Let me leave with you money to take care of this man and nurse him back to health. If it costs you more, I will reimburse you on my next journey this way*. The inn keeper is drawn in, to serve a person in need, driven by the Samaritan’s compassion.

⁶ see 1 Kings 12:21-24, 25-33; Later, after Israel’s fall to the Assyrians (720 BC), they began to intermarry with the Assyrians, contrary to Deuteronomy 7:3-5. This is why the Jews hated the Samaritans as “dogs,” or “half-breeds.” The Samaritans were also a continuous source of difficulty to the Jews who rebuilt Jerusalem after returning from Babylonian captivity (Ezra 4, esp v 10; Nehemiah 4, esp v 2).

If are tempted to think, *I don't have the resources of the Samaritan; besides, how do I know I can trust this innkeeper?* , we have missed the point of service!

Jesus calls us, individually and as His Church, to serve **HIM** when we journey with people in need. They are as precious to Him as we are. *Love them, your neighbours as yourself!* To discover service is to discover the joy of helping people in need, who are just as precious as we are in God's eternal Kingdom. God's character was seen through Jesus, and Jesus' character is seen through us, when we serve in His Name! **AMEN.**

LISTEN **No other Name but the Name of Jesus**

PRAYER

"My prayer for all of them is that they will be one....Then the world will know that you sent me and will understand that you love them as much as you love me." (John 17:21, 23). Father! May Jesus' prayer be fulfilled in our lives as we seek to serve you, in and through our lives. **AMEN.**

HYMN **Trust and Obey**

BENEDICTION

As people of faith in God's plan for our world, we gathered for worship. As people of faith in Christ's sacrificial death, His resurrection and His Ascension, we now return to our world, to share the story of our faith, in word and in deed.

We are witnesses to God the Father and His Son Jesus our Christ, journeying with us through the Holy Spirit, today and every day for the glory of God's restored Kingdom, of which Christ is the Head! **AMEN.**

LISTEN **Where you go, I will follow**

As a member of Botley Baptist Church, please do not forget to remit your tithe and offering, either directly into the bank or drop-off your envelope at Church.

If you do not attend this Church and would like to contribute to its ministry, please click "EMAIL US" at the top of the home page.

Thank you.

May God's bountiful blessings fill your cup to the brim, patted down and overflowing!

Lord we've come to worship

And we have come to pray
Lord we've come to listen
And hear what You would say
Lord our hearts are longing
To meet with You today
For we have come to seek You
And we have come to say,
 Worthy You are worthy
 King of kings Lord of lords
 You are worthy
 All blessing and power
 All riches and wisdom
 All glory and honour and praise
 To the Lamb

Lord we need forgiveness
We've wandered far away
Look down in tender mercy
Forgive our sins we pray
O Lord we need revival
All across this land
Come move among Your people
With Your mighty hand
 To the Lamb that was slain
 To redeem us back to God again
 To the Lamb
 Who will reign
 Forever and ever

AMEN

Source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Coomes Thomas W / Moen Donald James

Lord We've Come to Worship lyrics © Integrity's Hosanna Music, Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Guide me o thou great redeemer

Pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but thou art mighty
Hold me with thy powerful hand
Bread of heaven
Feed me now and evermore

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing streams do flow
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey though
Strong deliverer
Be thou still my strength and shield

When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Source: LyricFind

Songwriters: Adam Langston / Dp

Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Redeemer lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group

How sweet to hold

Our newborn baby

And feel the pride

And the joy that he gives

But greater still

The calm assurance

We can face uncertain days

We can face uncertain days

Because he lives

Sing it with us

And because he lives

I can face tomorrow

Because he lives

All fear is gone

Because I know he holds the future

And life is worth the living

Just because he lives

And then one day

We'll all cross the river

And fight life's final war with pain

And then, as death gives way to victory

I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns

Because he lives

I can face tomorrow

Because he lives

All fear is gone

Because I know he holds the future

And life is worth the living

Just because He lives

He lives! He lives!

Source: LyricFind

Songwriters: Chris Tomlin / Daniel Carson / Ed Cash / Gloria Gaither / Jason Ingram / Matt Maher / William J. Gaither

Because He Lives lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Warner Chappell Music, Inc, BMG Rights Management, Universal Music Publishing Group, Capitol Christian Music Group, Music Services, Inc

Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my king.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold not a might would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use every power as you choose.

Refrain Here am I, all of me.

Take my life, it's all for thee.

Take my will and make it Thine it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord I pour at your feet its treasure store

Take myself and I will be ever, only all for thee,

Take myself and I will be ever, only all for thee.

Here am I, All of me. Take my life, It's all for thee.

Source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Tomlin Christopher D / Giglio Louie

Take My Life lyrics © Worshiptogether.com Songs, Sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing

No Other Name But The Name Of Jesus

No Other Name But The Name Of The Lord

No Other Name But The Name Of Jesus

Is Worthy Of Glory, And Worthy Of Honour

And Worthy Of Power, And All Praise

No Other Name But The Name Of Jesus

No Other Name But The Name Of The Lord

No Other Name But The Name Of Jesus

His Name Is Exalted Far Above The Earth

His Name Is High Above The Heavens

His Name Is Exalted Far Above The Earth

Give Glory And Honour, And Praise Unto His Name

Writer: Robert Gay

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Scripture Reference(s): Psalms 148:13, Acts 4:12, Hebrews 7:26

CCLI Song No. 141793

TRUST AND OBEY

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet.

Or we'll walk by His side in the way.

What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

And 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,

Just to take Him at His Word;

Just to rest upon His promise,

Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!

How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;

Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!

Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

Oh, for grace to trust You more!

Source: Musixmatch