

The Good Samaritan and His Greater Savior

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 10:25-37



Big Idea

It is only when we are brought to experience the free, unmerited grace of God for us in Christ that our legalistic, self-justifying instincts can be overcome. The only way we are ever truly going to come to love our neighbor as ourselves is if we first experience the love of God for us.

(1) He Turns the Law Inside-Out

Here's the tragic irony in all of this: Even in all this talk about neighbor love, this Lawyer can't get over himself. Did you catch that? "You want to talk about neighbors? Okay, let's talk about me, and how I'm doing it right." Don't you see? So long as you think it's on you to justify yourself before God and others, to prove you are right and worthy and good enough, you actually will never be able to really get over yourself. Even your loving others will, in some way, still be to serve you. "I need to love my neighbor if I want to secure something for myself, or feel good about myself . . . to justify myself." And this is what starts to come out here in the Lawyer's question: "And who is my neighbor?" The law is so limited. It's always concerned with lines. Only the love of God, as we shall see has the power to break us free from this concern for boundaries so we can truly start to dream!

Just like with this Lawyer's first question, he takes it and kind of throws it back at him. Only in this second instance, if you noticed, he reframed the question entirely. He put a different spin on it. The question at first was: "[W]ho is my neighbor?" But here at the end the question Jesus is trying to get Him to is: "Am I a neighbor?" Do you see the difference here? The former asks: "How much do I *have* to do?" The latter asks: "How much *can* I do?" Sit on that. Read to it again. Let it search you.

(2) He Turns the World Upside-Down

Jesus is not turning this man's world upside-down to shame him, or mock him, or condemn him. He does it so He can invite him—invite him out of a world of legalism and into a world of grace. The point in this parable is not that Samaritans are better than Jews. The point is that the grace of God can do anything with anyone!

(3) He Turns Our Eyes Toward Him

The accent here is not meant to be on the goodness of the Samaritan. The accent is meant to be on the greatness of our Savior. It is only when a person is brought to experience the grace of Christ that this whole legalistic, self-justification thing can be broken. The only way we are ever truly going to love our neighbor is if we experience the love of God for us.

Reflection Questions



- Why does the law lack the power to change us? Describe your experience (past and present) with self-righteousness. How are you still trying to use the law to justify yourself? How has this made you a worse neighbor?
- How does the grace of God in Christ do what the law can't? Describe your experience (past and present) with the free, justifying grace of God. How has this made you a better neighbor? Does being under grace mean you no longer need to be concerned with law?
- Commentators talk about how in this text Jesus takes the concept of neighbor as a noun (a person) and makes it a verb (an action). What would neighbor look like as a verb in your life this week? How can you "prove to be a neighbor" to someone else? Be specific and follow through!