

## Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

### "The Essence of God's Law"

**Passage Background:** "It was expected that rabbis would discuss theological matters in public, and the question this scribe (lawyer) asked was one that was often debated by the Jews. It was a good question asked with a bad motive, because the lawyer hoped to trap our Lord. However, Jesus trapped the lawyer!

"Our Lord sent the man back to the Law, not because the Law saves us (Gal. 2:16, 21; 3:21), but because the Law shows us that we need to be saved. There can be no real conversion without conviction, and the Law is what God uses to convict sinners (Rom. 3:20).

"The scribe gave the right answer, but he would not apply it personally to himself and admit his own lack of love for both God and his neighbor. So, instead of *being justified* by throwing himself on the mercy of God (Luke 18:9-14), he tried to *justify himself* and wriggle out of his predicament. He used the old debating tactic, 'Define your terms! What do you mean by 'neighbor'? Who is my neighbor?' "<sup>1</sup>

#### Luke 10:25-37 (NKJV); The Parable of the Good Samaritan

<sup>25</sup> And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"

<sup>27</sup> So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "

<sup>28</sup> And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

<sup>30</sup> Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a certain priest came down that

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<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 1, p. 211). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup> So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' <sup>36</sup> So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"

<sup>37</sup> And he said, "He who showed mercy on him."

Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

### *The Essence of God's Law*

#### 1. You cannot do anything to \_\_\_\_\_ or deserve God's \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 25-26).

- This lawyer was a religious expert in Old Testament law. He asked Jesus a question that people throughout the ages have asked: "What shall **I DO** to inherit eternal life?"
- What was the lawyer's fallacy? It all centers around the word "DO." You cannot do anything or earn or deserve God's grace.
- Religions throughout history have taught that you must DO something to earn salvation and eternal life. Let's examine some of today's most popular world religions:
- Salvation is a free gift that you can't earn or deserve.

**Ephesians 2:8-10;** <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,* <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

**Titus 2:12;** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

2. The heart of God's \_\_\_\_\_ is loyal \_\_\_\_\_  
for God and others (v. 27-28).

- The essence of God's entire law can be summed up in just one word: **LOVE**.
- Okay if love is the greatest thing, how shall we then love?

A. First of all, love has to be **3-dimensional love**-

**I** \_\_\_\_\_-You shall love. It has to start from within you.

**U** \_\_\_\_\_-You shall love the LORD your God.

**O** \_\_\_\_\_-You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

B. Second, love encompasses your entire being:

- **Heart**-With all your heart. Heart=your feeling, emotions, attitude, and passion.
- **Soul**-With all your soul. Soul=your innermost self. Loving God from the very core of yourself.
- **Strength**-With all your strength. Strength=loving God through serving Him through your physical body.
- **Mind**-With all your mind. Mind=your thoughts, motives, reflections, and contemplations.

3. Showing love for your \_\_\_\_\_ means showing mercy to  
those God places in your \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 29-37).

- When we realize how far we have fallen short of the essence of God's law which is love, we have two responses:
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_-up: We can try to cover up our short comings. The religious lawyer tried to cover up his short comings by looking for a loop hole in God's law. Who then is my neighbor.
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_-up: We can fess up and allow God to cover up our short comings.
- The living example: The Good Samaritan.

**Micah 6:8**; He has shown you, O man, what *is* good;  
And what does the Lord require of you  
But to do justly,  
To love mercy,  
And to walk humbly with your God?

**Sermon in a Sentence**: The essence of God's law is showing loyal love towards God and others.

L.G.L.P.---Love God, Love People.



***Action Steps:***

1. Go out of your way to help someone that God places in your path this week.
2. Check your level of loyalty towards God and others. How committed are you?

**Make a decision this week?** Please let us know on your Connection Card.

Preview for next Sunday: "Are you a distracted disciple or a devoted disciple?"  
Luke 10:38-42.