



Today's Message

Date: December 6, 2020
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *What it Looks Like to Love One Another*

Text: Luke 10:29–37 (ESV)

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.”

Introduction: A lawyer tested Jesus by asking “What must I do to inherit eternal life.” The answer came from the Law of Moses: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart...and your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus explained that this looks like with a famous story.

I. The story retold: Jesus explained what it looks like to love your neighbor as God requires.

- A. The setting: Jesus responded to a lawyer’s attempt to “justify himself.” 29
- B. The parable: Jesus told a story with an unexpected hero. 30-35
 - 1. An anonymous man was in desperate situation. 30
 - 2. Two respected members of the religious community cared more for themselves than for the man in need. 31-32
 - 3. Help came from a despised Samaritan who showed selfless compassion. 33-35
- C. The point of the parable: Do not ask, who is my neighbor; ask, am I a neighbor to others? 36
- D. The responsibility: Love others as the Samaritan loved. 37

II. Implications:

- A. Perfect love for God (27) cannot be displayed without perfect love for God’s image-bearers.
- B. Eternal life requires perfect love; we must pursue it, but we can never achieve it.
- C. Only one Man has ever loved like this: Jesus.
- D. The gospel message is this: Jesus’ perfect obedience (active and passive) counts for all who trust him.

Today’s take-home truth: Though our love for God and others is imperfect, Jesus secures eternal life for those who follow him.