

The Parable of the Real Neighbor, Part 2: Luke 10:25-37

Sunday, January 15, 2023
Covenant Church
Pastor Zack Phillips

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, 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 while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

A. The Nature of His Help

The Samaritan's love—like all love—requires imagination and learned skill.

Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert (see below) distinguish between relief, rehabilitation, and development.

B. His Partnership with the Innkeeper

While the Anabaptists challenge us to reconsider the relationship between Church and World...

...we must also appreciate—and make room for—*God's movement in the world*, e.g., Rahab (Josh 2); the Roman centurion (Matt 8:5-13), Julius the kind centurion (Acts 27).

Amos 9:7 Are you not like the Ethiopians to me,

O people of Israel? says the LORD.

Did I not bring Israel up from the land of Egypt,

and the Philistines from Capthor and the Arameans from Kir?

Luke 9:49-50 John answered, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us." But Jesus said to him, "Do not stop him; for whoever is not against you is for you."

Luke 11:23 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

C. Fruit(s) of His Action?

Results (not “fruits”!) are wonderful. But..

1. We are too impatient to wait for non-immediate results.
2. We don't bring the same scrutiny to our “non-ministry” work.
3. There is something beautiful about “wasteful”/ inefficient love.
4. We shouldn't obsess over results ahead of time.
5. The “fruits” are:

Gal 5:22-23 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Question: What is one thing that God may have said to you through this sermon?

Some Recommended Reading

Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor... and Yourself* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009).

Stanley Hauerwas and William H. Willimon, *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony*, 25th anniv. ed. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014).

“Near Victories,” *Hidden Brain* podcast, September 2015.