Loving THEM? November 1, 2020

*Luke 10:25-37 Series: Is God Racist?*

Perfect love may cast out fear, but fear is remarkably potent in casting out love. — P. D. James

Intro: When you’re the one who doesn’t get it.

1. Eternal life doesn’t belong to those with the right answers.
2. The lawyer wanted to put Jesus to the test.

v. 25 *behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test*

v. 25 *Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*

1. Jesus gave the lawyer a chance to ace his own test.

v. 26 *What is written in the Law? How do you read it?*

v. 27 *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.*

1. Jesus shows the lawyer that he’s focused on the wrong test.

v. 28 *You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.*

* Why do you think the lawyer wanted to put Jesus to the test?
* How would the lawyer feel when he heard Jesus’ words in v. 28?
* How can knowing the right spiritual answers give someone a false sense of security?

1. Eternal life doesn’t belong to those with the most religion.
2. The lawyer wants to make Jesus’ test easier to answer.

v. 29 *desiring to justify himself*

v. 29 *And who is my neighbor?*

1. Jesus describes a person in great need in a dangerous place.

v. 30 *A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho …*

v. 30 *he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead*

1. Religious people can make lousy neighbours.

v. 31 *by chance a priest was going down that road*

v. 31 *when he saw him he passed by on the other side*

v. 32 *So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.*

* What are the most common ways Christians justify themselves?
* Why do you think Jesus chose a priest and a Levite as the negative examples in His story?
* Why are religious people sometimes lousy neighbours?

1. Eternal life doesn’t belong to those who have earned it.
2. A Samaritan was the last person expected to be the hero.

v. 33 *But a Samaritan …*

1. The Samaritan’s compassion was extravagant.

v. 33 *when he saw him, he had compassion*

v. 34 *He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.*

v. 34 *he set him on his own animal*

v. 34 *brought him to an inn and took care of him*

v. 35 *the next day*

v. 35 *he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper*

v. 35 *whatever more you spend, I will repay you*

v. 35 *when I come back*

1. This story isn’t intended to ease our conscience.

v. 36 *Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor …?*

v. 37 *He said, “The one who showed him mercy.”*

v. 37 *And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”*

Romans 3:20 *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

* Jesus chose a Samaritan to confront Jewish prejudice. What kinds of prejudice might Jesus confront today?
* What do you learn from the Samaritan about needing to grow as a neighbour?
* What could our church do to be more ‘Samaritan’ during the pandemic?

Eternal life comes through the rejected One who paid to heal you.

Matthew 9:36 *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Acts 8:26-40.

Notes