

The Disciple

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Sermon Summary

The Good Samaritan

By David Perkinson

This sermon was preached on October 11 by David Perkinson, he writes a synopsis of the sermon below.

My sermon from October 11 was drawn from Luke, chapter 10, verses 25-37.

Jesus once told this story - the Good Samaritan - which has been a favorite ever since. It's a charming, human-interest story, but at the same time it carries a sharp message. All of us are guilty of committing many types of sin. There are sins of omission - things we don't do which we should, and sins of commission - things we do which we shouldn't. There are sins of the flesh and of the spirit, open sins and secret sins, and so-called "respectable" sins. These sins are the ones that creep into our daily life and thinking that we justify and excuse away. It was a respectable sin, justifying why the Levite and the priest did not stop to help, that Jesus

“...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 you must love your neighbor just as much as you love yourself.”

Luke 10:27

Sermon Summary

Thessalonians 3

As we do every week, we invite you to read 1 Thessalonians 3:1 - 13 and refer back to these verses as you read this synopsis. What Paul is trying to tell the church of Thessalonica is the same as what we learn thousands of years later as we read the letter: All of our life is spent with God preparing us.

These verses start with Paul living in worry and anxiety for the people of Thessalonica. So the group split up and Paul was left alone. He was in Athens, alone, and he was having a hard time. He is without his closest friends. And like many of us when left alone, with worry and anxiety, he was not having a peaceful or happy time with it. This is like us. We do not do well left alone in our discouragement. People need other people in their lives to share the burden. Paul realizes this also and spends the remaining pieces of this chapter extolling the virtues of lifting each other up and sharing the guidance of the gospel with each other and everyone.

Paul begins by pointing out that Timothy is like you and I. He calls Timothy a co-worker of God. But in this letter, Timothy is us. Timothy is not an apostle. He has no special insight and yet he is called, as we are to administer the gospel as a co-worker to the Lord. Timothy wasn't called to be extraordinary, and we are not called to be extraordinary. We



The Good Samaritan Continued

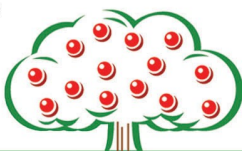
graphically pointed out in the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

God knows us and what we have to give, and He also knows what we need most to receive. In preaching this particular message I am sharing with you the story that I have reached for over the past several weeks while wrestling with my own "respectable" sin. These times of strife and division in our country try my soul and in my weakness I judge. I choose who I think is my neighbor and who I think is other and in doing so I neglect my relationship with God. Like all of us, I fall far short of the Samaritan's example and I need a reminder that God's definition of neighbor is inclusive of all His children.

After rereading this portrait of the Good Samaritan, I wonder if you can think of a person who fully fits the picture. The only one who matches it completely must be Jesus Christ himself. It's rather striking that the previous chapter in the Gospel records that "Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (9:51). It was a journey which ended on the Cross. Here is the ultimate model of love. He cared when caring was expensive. Our guilt was enormous, but on the Cross, he took on himself all our liabilities and, on the Cross, paid for us in full. We cannot hope to keep the great commandments, "To love God ... and our neighbor", but having trusted in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our calling as Christians is to hear the words of Jesus to the lawyer who questioned Jesus and who heard his Parable of the Good Samaritan, "Go and do likewise" (37).

It's not always popular or convenient or cheap to follow the example of the Good Samaritan, but it is the right way. His is the way of joy. "Go and do likewise."

*May the Lord make
you increase and
abound in love
for one another
and for all ...*



Thessalonians 3 Continued

are called to live an authentic life. To be real and spread the gospel just by being yourself.

We have been given the only thing that can heal people of fear and shame. The gospel cures us from the inside out and heals our shame. So, 1 Thessalonians 3 tells us to lean in and lean on Christ. And to not just do it ourselves, but to exhort and encourage others to do it also. To bring others up to us and up with us and to stand next to them in their struggle to give strength.

Paul was afraid that the people had fallen away. He was afraid that they were not staying diligent and taking advantage of the opportunities to strengthen their own faith. They needed to continue in their faith by learning what it means to rely on Christ in every circumstance in life. Leaving areas where division could rise and where they could fall away from God. We are asked to dive deeper and to examine the gospel more. In our own lives this can be a chance to join a Bible Study, to read commentaries, to find an opportunity to explain and examine more fully God's word.

The chapter leaves us in love.

¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 13

The secret is that it costs to love in an overwhelming fashion. It will cost you. You may become exhausted or discouraged when you choose to love without ceasing as God loves. Sometimes you may feel indifferent, or weary of loving. So even in loving, you need supportive prayer. And it helps to remember Matthew 27 where Pilate put to the crowd who to release - Jesus or Barabbas. The crowd chose Barabbas and Jesus took his place for execution. Just like Barabbas, you too were set free, and Jesus took your place. This sacrifice is what makes love possible for us. When we embrace that reality, we can love with the grace of God and give that love to others freely with no expectation of return.

The closing hymn says it best :

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.



Worship Committee Request

Come Decorate for Christmas

We need volunteers to decorate for Christmas on Friday and/or Saturday mornings after Thanksgiving. Specifically... we

need a family to decorate the tree so that we can adhere to distancing guidelines and not be passing ornaments to non-related members.



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MERE CHRISTIANITY:

A Christian

is not someone who never goes wrong, but one who is enabled to repent and pick himself up and begin again, because the Christ — life is inside him.

— C.S. Lewis



God is love.

Whoever lives in love lives in God, and **God** in him.

1 John 4:16

Poem of Inspiration

Checking In

A minister passing through his church
In the middle of the day
Decided to pause by the altar
And see who had come to pray.

Just then the back door opened,
A man came down the aisle,
The minister frowned as he saw
The man hadn't shaved in a while.

His shirt was shabby, old,
And his coat was worn and frayed.
The man knelt, he bowed his head
Then rose and walked away.

In the days that followed,
Each noon time came this chap.
Each time he knelt just for a moment,
A lunch pail in his lap.

Well, the minister's suspicions grew,
With robbery a main fear.
He decided to stop the man and ask him,
"What are you doing here?"

The old man said he worked down the road.
Lunch was half an hour.
Lunchtime was his prayer time
For finding strength and power.

"I stay only moments, see,
Because the factory is so far away.
As I kneel here talking to the Lord,
This is what I say:

I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, LORD,
HOW HAPPY I'VE BEEN
SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHER'S FRIENDSHIP,
AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY,
BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY.
SO, JESUS, THIS IS JIM,
CHECKING IN TODAY."

The minister, feeling foolish,
Told Jim, that was fine.
He told the man he was welcome
To come and pray just anytime.

Time to go, Jim smiled, and said "Thanks."
He sped to the door.
The minister knelt at the altar,
He'd never done it before.

His cold heart melted, warmed with love,
And met with Jesus there.
As the tears flowed, in his heart,
He repeated old Jim's prayer:

HOW HAPPY I'VE BEEN,
SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHER'S FRIENDSHIP,
AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY,
BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY.
SO, JESUS, THIS IS ME,
CHECKING IN TODAY."

Past noon one day, the minister noticed
That old Jim hadn't come.
As more days passed without Jim,
He began to worry some.

At the factory, he asked about him,
Learning he was ill.
The hospital staff was worried,
But he'd given them a thrill.

The week that Jim was with them,
Brought changes in the ward.
His smiles, a joy contagious.
Changed people, were his reward.

The head nurse couldn't understand
Why Jim was so glad
When no flowers, calls or cards came,
Not a visitor he had.

The minister stayed by his bed,
He voiced the nurse's concern:
No friends came to show they cared.
He had nowhere to turn.

Looking surprised, old Jim spoke up
And with a winsome smile;
"The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know,
That in here all the while.

Everyday at noon, He's here,
A dear friend of mine, you see,
He sits right down, takes my hand,
Leans over and says to me:

'I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, JIM,
HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,
SINCE WE FOUND THIS FRIENDSHIP,
AND I TOOK AWAY YOUR SIN.
I ALWAYS LOVE TO HEAR YOU PRAY,
AND I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY,
SO JIM, THIS IS JESUS,
CHECKING IN TODAY.'"