

Church Matters

“The Church and Her Call to Compassion”

Luke 10:25-36

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / August 30, 2015

I. The Parable of the Good Samaritan shows us that indifference is not an option for the Christian.

Luke 10:36,37

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.”

“At the Lausanne missions gathering in 2010, John Piper made the statement that ‘we should care about all suffering, especially eternal suffering.’ He chose the word ‘care’ quite carefully...This means when we hear about grinding poverty or legal abortion or biblical illiteracy, we are not indifferent. We think and feel that these things ought not be so. We won’t all care about every issue in the same way, but there are some issues we should all care about, some issues that should at least prick our hearts and prompt us to pray.”

DeYoung, Kevin. *Crazy Busy: A (mercifully) Short Book about a (really) Big Problem*. 40. Print.

What about you? Have you grown callous to those around you who are in need? Are the first thoughts that come into your mind judgmental or compassionate?

II. The Parable of the Good Samaritan is a great picture of the concept of “moral proximity.”

“The principle of moral proximity is pretty straightforward, but is often overlooked: The closer the need, the greater the moral obligation to help. Moral proximity does not refer to geography, thought that can be part of the equation. Moral proximity refers to how connected we are to someone by virtue of familiarity, kinship, space or time.”

DeYoung, Kevin, and Greg Gilbert. *What Is the Mission of the Church? Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission*. 183. Print.

Luke 10:31a,32a,33a

³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road...³² So likewise a Levite...³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was...

Gal. 6:10

¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

III. The Parable of the Good Samaritan shows us that those who have inherited eternal life will be “good neighbors.”

In Luke 10:29, the lawyer asks Jesus “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus never answers the man! Instead, he takes the conversation in another direction, stressing the importance of being a good neighbor, making a very clear point to the lawyer; “You, go, and do likewise.”

What about you? When the Lord affords you a providential opportunity to do good for someone else, do you make the most of the opportunity? Who are you most like in the parable of the Good Samaritan?

IV. Jesus' last recorded words are centered on two things: proclamation of the Gospel and making disciples.

Matt. 28:19,20 ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Luke 24:45-47 ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Acts 1:8 ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

John 20:21 ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

Luke 4:43 ⁴³ but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."

V. If you view unsaved people with compassion, you'll be moved to do what He did; share the life-changing truth of the Gospel!

Mark 6:34 ³⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

Ultimately, there is nothing more compassionate than coming alongside someone, showing them who can meet their greatest need, by pointing them to the compassionate Savior who can save them from death and hell, give them meaning and purpose in this life, and a home in eternity in the next.

What about you? Will you look for opportunities to advance the mission of God's church? Pray God gives you compassion for others. Pray God gives you the courage to stand—the confidence to speak—the heart to sacrifice, so we might accomplish the mission of God's church; to proclaim the truth of God's Word, and the mercy of God's Son Jesus Christ!