

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #176

(Note: You can read the online Newspaper edition of this post [here](#).)

The Later Judean Ministry: Jesus Trains His Followers in the Basics of Discipleship

Jesus Teaches On Unconditional Love for Others: “The Good Samaritan”

Luke 10.29-37

29 The Law-expert wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 Jesus answered back: *"A man was traveling down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was suddenly attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him to a pulp and took off, leaving him half dead.*

31 "By chance a priest was going down the same road, and when he took a good look at the the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 In the same way,when he came to that spot and looked at him, a Levite passed by on the other side.

33 "But a hated Samaritan, as he traveled, came to where the man was; and when he took a good look at him, he felt deep compassion for him.34 Having gone straight to him, he bandaged his wounds, lavishing oil and wine on them. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.

35 "The next day he took out two days worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. 'You must look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I myself will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think became a 'neighbor' to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, *"I command you to go out and continue to do likewise."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	On the Road, Somewhere in Judea
Timeline	September (Month 31)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	D. Jesus Minister in Judea and Trains His Disciples
	I. Jesus Trains His Followers in the Basics of Discipleship
Title	ii. Jesus Teaches on Unconditional Love for Others: “The Good Samaritan”

COMMENT:

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This scribe was deluding himself into thinking that he was obeying the supreme commandment to love God with all of his being, and to love his neighbors like himself. If he had actually been doing that, he would have been sinless like Jesus, and therefore qualified to earn eternal life by the quality of his own life.

In order to have any chance of actually inheriting eternal life, the man needed to recognize his own sin, and come to Jesus in broken-hearted confession of his unworthiness to receive anything other than judgement and eternal condemnation from God. Then, the totally undeserved mercy, grace, and forgiveness of God, that comes freely through Jesus, could have given him the gift of eternal life, which the scribe could never earn on his own.

Jesus told the parable of the "Good Samaritan" to illustrate what true love of our neighbor means. It was intended to show the Scribe-- and all people, too-- that we all routinely fall short of truly loving other people. This makes us sinful, for every requirement of the Word of God is an expression of unconditional love in action, and attitude.

The point was that neither the Scribe or the Levite in the story felt that they had done anything wrong in bypassing the wounded man. They were sure in their own minds that they had done the right thing. Yet they were totally wrong. In failing to love unconditionally, as God does, they demonstrated how far they were from truly loving God.

The Samaritan man, on the other hand, showed unconditional love for a person who would have considered the Samaritan to be an enemy. He met the wounded man's needs, at his own risk and expense. He had compassion upon him. He treated the wounded man just like Jesus treats us, in spite of our enmity against him. This parable was a concrete illustration of Jesus' new commandment... ***"love each other just as I have first loved you."***

Who is my neighbor, according to Jesus? Every one!

Every person in the world is to be the object of God's unconditional love expressed through us, just as it has first been lavished upon us, and poured out within us by God. There are no exceptions--we are to love all people, unconditionally, all the time. This is discipleship principle #1, according to Jesus.

Learning to love others, unconditionally--as God first loves us--is the central learning goal of every experience of our life on earth. We love others because we love the God who has first loved us. This is discipleship in a nutshell, according to Jesus.

APPLICATION:

It is easy to say we love a God we cannot see. The way we love all the people that HE loves is the real proof of how much we love him.

Who are you failing to love unconditionally right now?

What do you need to change in order to treat them in exactly the same way that Jesus has first loved you? When will you begin to do that?