

# The Law of Love

Luke 10:25-37

Review of Jesus's commitment to God's Sovereignty in our Salvation

*22 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." 23 Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!"*

In his prayer to the Holy Spirit, Jesus rejoiced in the recognition that it was by the power of the Father that we are saved. By this power, the disciples' eyes and our own eyes have been opened to who Jesus Christ is. In the very next passage, we see Jesus tested by a lawyer on the theology of salvation (Eternal life).

If we were to pull the next 12 verses out of context and read them literally without a full understanding of Jesus' gospel, then we would fail to see the message that jumps out at us when we compare these 12 verses with the mindset of Christ in verse 22-23.

## Frame Parable of Good Samaritan

- This understanding of the context gives us insight into this passage being more than a moral message or salvation by works of love
- Demonstrates the purpose of the law in a culturally relevant way (Samaritans/Our culture's idea of love)
- Gives us a redeemed moral message
- Most importantly, demonstrates our failure to fulfill the law and our need for salvation.
- Illustrates that Christ saves us out of our inability to save ourselves

## Read Passage

### Luke 10:25-37

- V. 25 Opening Question
- V. 27 Summary of the Law
- V. 28 Jesus' Response/Validation of Standard
- V. 29 Self-Justification/Defensive/Technical/Manipulative Response
- V.30 Jesus' response with a story
  - A man was beaten down and helpless
  - Priest
    - Who was this priest? Top of religious order
    - Saw
    - Did nothing
  - Levite
    - Who was this Levite? Lower level religious temple worker
    - Saw
    - Did nothing
  - Samaritan
    - Who was this Samaritan?
      - Does not originally meet the lawyer's definition of "neighbor"
      - Theological Impurity
      - Racial Tension
      - Cultural Tension
    - Samaritan's Response
      - Saw

- Had compassion (Acted)
- Bound up wounds
- Poured oil and wine (gave of his own material possessions)
- Transported to safety
- Paid in full – promised to pay for any additional expense
- V. 36 Jesus answers an alteration of the original question to demonstrate the Lawyers failure to fulfill the law
- V. 37 The Lawyers hard-hearted response
- V. 37 Jesus' validation of the law's requirement of holiness and perfection which no one can achieve

## Our Response

### 1. Recognition of Who We Are

Many of us would like to read ourselves into the story as the hero. The one who set aside cultural and racial prejudice to offer aid to the one who was in need. There are some who fit this description in how they live, but I propose viewing ourselves in this way may cause us to miss the key takeaway. Perhaps by seeing ourselves in the other characters' shoes we will be more easily able to understand what Jesus wants us to see.

- We are the Lawyer in our self-justification
- We are the religious elite(priest) or religious worker (Levite) who knows the law of love, but does not live out this love as we should
- We are the man lying beaten/helpless/in need of a savior

### 2. Recognition of the Purpose of the Law

Let's remember why we have this story. Jesus starts by summarizing the law. Paul gives incredibly specific and relevant insight into how we should understand the law.

- The law shows us our sin and brokenness
  - *Romans 7:7 "What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin."*
  - *Romans 7:12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. 13 Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.*
- The law does not bring righteousness but brings us to Christ
  - Galatians 3:21-29  
*21 Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. 22 But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave[a] nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*

I read these verses and I am comforted. I like Paul am most aware and cognizant and deeply disturbed by my own sin. It is through the law that I recognize my failure and complete inability to save myself. However, I am comforted because I read in these verses the answer that the Lawyer in our text could not see... that it is through faith in Jesus Christ that I am declared a son of God, offspring, and heir of Abraham according to the covenant God made with Abraham thousands of years ago.

And yet we must recognize that just like the lawyer in the text, we have crafted our identity around our adherence to the law as the source of our righteousness and our salvation

### **3. Recognition of our Futile Self-Righteousness**

- Theological Elitism
  - I am good because I...
    - Am devoted to doctrine and theological purity (Identity in Reformed Theology)
    - Can identify (Condescending attitude towards) those who do not agree with us
    - Am able to debate you into a corner to prove you are wrong
- Religious Elitism
  - I am good because I...
    - Serve in the church (Levite)
    - Lead in the church (Priest)
    - Have the correct/balanced perspective on church format and functionality (lawyer)
    - Can point out how everyone else is being a Christian wrong
    - Constantly reference my own sin and failures (Deceptively prideful hearts)
- Moral Elitism
  - I am good because I...
    - Make the right parenting decisions
    - Make the right education decisions
    - Good steward by making more money – Good steward by living without as much money
    - Don't drink alcohol – Do drink alcohol
    - Political Right / Politically Left / Political Center / Politically Uninvolved
    - Etc. Etc. Etc.

No matter how you attempt to find salvation in yourself... you damn yourself by your own standard

How do you know if you are finding your salvation in these things? How do you view those who differ with you?

Lawyer's view of the Samaritan - Why did Jesus show the Samaritan to be the good neighbor? Shock the religious elite

### **4. Recognition of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ**

Origen was an early church theologian in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century who took an allegorical view of this passage

- The debate over Jesus' allegorical intent – Illustration and reminder of Christ work on our behalf
  - Came to us in our helplessness
    - *Romans 5:6-8 - For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
  - Bound our wounds

- *Isaiah 53 - But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*
- Promised to return
- Paid/Atoned for our sins
  - *1 John 4:7-10 - 7Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

I John gives us a beautiful blend of the gospel of Christ's propitiation/payment/atonement for our sins, with the recognition that to follow Christ means to reflect and exhibit the love of God.

### **Closing Statements**

So to summarize our response, we are to accept the work of Jesus Christ for your salvation from your sin/brokenness

- Forsake self-righteousness and our attempts to meet a standard for our own justification
- Adhere to the Law of Love
  - Gratitude and Affection for our Lord and Savior
  - Desire to be like Christ and reflect his love (John 12)
  - Desire to love those who just like us are lying broken, hurting, and in need of salvation.