

WEEK 29:

BEARING YOUR NEIGHBOR'S BURDENS

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 10:25-37

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Leviticus 19:9-18, Matthew 5:13-16 and
25:31-46, John 13:1-20, Galatians 5:13-15,
James 1:26-2:17, 1 Peter 2:9-12, 1 John 4:18-21

"Neighbor is not a concept to be debated or defined, but a flesh-and-blood person in the ditch waiting to be served. You can't define your neighbor in advance; you can only be a neighbor when the moment of mercy arrives."

- William Cwirla

"At the center of Christianity is a man on the cross loving people who don't love Him, pouring His life out for people who aren't even interested in Him."

- J.D. Greear

"Here is a vocation that will bring you more satisfaction than if you became a millionaire ten times over: Develop the extraordinary skill for detecting the burdens of others and devote yourself daily to making them lighter."

- John Piper

PERSONAL STUDY:

Read Luke 10:25-28, Matthew 22:17-18 and John 8:3-6. What stands out to you about the interaction between Jesus and the lawyer in Luke 10? What is the lawyer's motive for asking his question?

Have you ever asked Jesus a question with the hope of trapping Him or putting Him to the test? Why?

In v. 25, the lawyer asks, "what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" What is inherently twisted in his question? What would you think about a family in which the children felt they needed to do certain things to receive an inheritance?

Read Luke 10:29. What is the lawyer's motive? What is the question behind the question? Do you ever find yourself asking "Do I really have to love this person?" Why?

Read Luke 10:30-37 and Leviticus 19:9-18. How does Jesus flip the lawyer's question on its head? What is the difference between people who serve "to justify themselves" and gospel motivation to love others?

How can love for the poor, the burdened, and the brokenhearted be evidence of a heart that understands God's love for us?

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Would you describe the general posture of your life as looking for opportunities to love and serve others? Why or why not?



Read Luke 10:25-29. How does Jesus expose the lawyer's busted motives and sinful heart? Where is Jesus confronting and exposing your heart? How are you responding?

Read Luke 10:30-37 and Galatians 5:13-15. How is Jesus the one and only perfect Good Samaritan? Why is the gospel the only motive that can turn self-justifying lawyers into self-sacrificing neighbors?



Read Galatians 6:1-5. How does Paul explain the interplay between independent self-sufficiency and an interwoven mutually dependent church family? Where are we strong and weak in these areas as individuals and as a LifeGroup?

Who has God put in your life who is hurting or "in a ditch"? How can you and your LifeGroup love and serve them well?

Spend some time praying for God's Spirit to open your LifeGroup's eyes to those who are hurting around you and to give you wisdom and courage to love them well.

