

## sermon: the good samaritan

### NOTES

### Poverty – different perceptions

- Not really that bad – media hype
- It's their own fault
- It's God's judgement
- Bad, but too big to do anything about
- Tell me what to do and I'll do it

### Read Luke 10:25 -37

3 guys – different perceptions – different response to the need.

So there's this man who goes on a journey – beaten up, needs a friend, needs a neighbour!

**Priest** – religious man – sees him but passes by

**Levite** – sees him and passes by

**Samaritan** – every reason to pass by this Jew as treated badly but responds differently

Jesus tells this story to illustrate what it means to **'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 love your neighbour as yourself'**

Let's see how this Good Samaritan did just that.

### 1. He chose to see the need

This man was moved in his **soul** – when he saw him, he took pity on him. He didn't close his eyes to the need like the others and like so many people do today. No he chose to see the need. That's what Jesus does – He sees the need:

Matt 9:36 'When He saw the crowds He had compassion on them'

Luke 10:20 'While he was still a long way off his father saw him and had compassion on him'

You know, loving God with everything means allowing Him to touch our emotions and saturate our souls with compassion so that when we see broken humanity the love of Christ wells up and causes us to respond rather than retreat.

Do we close our eyes out of fear or open our eyes in faith that God can use us to bring healing into someone's life?

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## 2. He answered the cry

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It wasn't enough to see the need and have pity, he chose to answer the cry and do something about it. It's one thing to have faith but faith without deeds is not faith. The Word says 'he went to him'. We need to love God with our **minds** because when we love God with our minds it involves a conscious act of the will.

Listen, you can be moved by what you see on the news, or what you hear today but to love God with our minds is to yield our minds to Him and be obedient to His will.

It says that he bandaged his wounds pouring on oil and wine. He brought comfort to the needy man.

Prov 21:13 'If a man shuts his ear to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered'

This Samaritan was aware of the danger and the inconvenience but he reached out anyway.

## 3. He refused to give up

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V34 -35 - He didn't just patch him up on the side of the road but he put him on his donkey and took him to an inn where he took care of him. Not only that but he was willing to pay the price by giving two day's wages and then promising to pay for any further expenses when he came back.

You know when we love God with all our **strength** we will follow through in our commitment by doing whatever it takes. Sometimes we start with good intentions but so often we become half hearted and fail to complete the work.

Can I encourage you today – don't give up on that sponsored child when it gets tough financially, don't give up on that person that you are not seeing the breakthrough you want to see, don't forsake that ministry because of the challenges you face – press through and just as you started well – finish well.

## 4. He was the key to bringing life

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The Good Samaritan wasn't hindered by the difference of this man, he had the **heart** to make a difference to this man.

He was willing to cross political, racial, cultural and social barriers and risk prejudices and the fear of the unknown because he saw someone with a need and he had the resources to meet that need. When we love God with all our **hearts** then nothing we have will be held back but will be freely available for the Lord to use. Our time, our money, our abilities, our whole lives – If you are a Christian today then Christ is living in you, what an incredible treasure within us that needs to be shared with others that they might discover His love and power too.

The Good Samaritan gave his time, his touch and his treasure to restore a broken person.

**As Christians we are called to:**

- feel the need of the broken
- kneel besides humanity with humility
- heal the wounds – physical and emotional
- deal hope to the hopeless – 'One of the greatest diseases is to be nobody to anybody' (Mother Teresa)

Response! – 'A broken person on the inside helped a broken person on the outside'

Your brokenness does not disqualify you from serving Him.

Partner with others to bring healing - the Good Samaritan equipped the inn keeper to do the job.