

Title: Beyond Sunday Morning

Passage: Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:33-34

But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

Luke 10:37

He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

The Good Samaritan

- *Question:* Who is my neighbor? Person wanted to justify and be clear who is and who is not his neighbor.
- *Jesus response:* describes a man with physical disabilities who is unable to do anything for himself.

God is watching

Psalms 139:3

You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

God's Law

- God's law is about being a neighbor to all (in church and out of church)

Luke 10:27

And he answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself."

James 2:1

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

1 John 4:20

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

Law vs. Traditions

- Are you going to hold on to traditions or onto God's law?

Mark 7:8-9

You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!

Mark 7:13

thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

- Question: What are our traditions that needs to be confronted?
 - Examples of "Traditions":
 - Focused on intellectual faith development (what you say vs. what you do)
 - Exclusion of people with disabilities.
 - Ex: Someone with autism part of church program for 7 years yet had no friends.

- Social-skill expectations/traditions (people should be interacting in a particular way; if they act a little off or differently, they are ostracized)
- Focused on certain-type relationships
- Self-evaluation: how well and properly do we understand and follow God’s Word instead of “traditions”?

Jesus as “counter cultural”

- Jesus confronted wrong traditions because of His love for the individual

Luke 8:43-44

And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.

- Tradition: people would have condemned the woman for making Jesus unclean
- Jesus: responds with kindness and commends her faith.

Luke 8:48

And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”

John 4:9 (woman at the Well)

The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Luke 7:38-39 (woman wash feet with tears)

and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.”

Matthew 8:2-3 (touched man with leprosy)

And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

John 5:6 (Jesus went to pool of Bethesda)

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?”

- Pool of Bethesda: water was dirty
- Jesus intentionally went there to minister

Matthew 9:11 (eats with sinners)

And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Mark 10:46-47 (Blind Bartimaeus)

And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

- blind man was calling out in faith - referred to Jesus as “Son of David”
- Jesus response of love: “What do you want me to do for you?”

Mark 2:4-5 (paralyzed man through roof)

And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

- people think he needs to be only restored physically
- Jesus responds on the more important thing: his sins are forgiven

Quote: Martin Luther King (“A time to break the silence, 1967)

- “One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life’s highway.”

Question: What is a “Jericho Road” you see that needs to be transformed?

What is the experience of people with disabilities?

- Low social status, rejected
- Distanced
- Abandoned
- Absence of freely given relationships (only those who are paid to be with them)
- Poverty
- Impoverished experience
- Lives wasted

Source: Wolfensberger, 18 wounds, 2001)

Contrast: Anyone can pray “Help _____”

- God hears the simplest of honest prayers, which can be done even by those with physical disabilities.
- Do not forego the blessing of ministering and being ministered by others whatever their condition.

Who are people with disabilities, Biblically?

Old Testament

Genesis 1:27 (all are created in God’s image)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Exodus 4:11 (all created with a purpose)

Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?”

Psalms 139:15 (all knit together in their mother’s womb)

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

New Testament

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (lack of faith not the cause of impairment)

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my

weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 Corinthians 12:22 (seemingly weaker are indispensable)

On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

1 Corinthians 12:23 (those thought less honorable worthy of special honor)

and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,

John 9:3 (sin not the cause of disability)

Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

John 9:3-5 (sin is a cause for action)

Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

God's sovereignty

- how do you use what you have and who is around you/who you meet?

Luke 12:13-21 (The Parable of the rich fool)

Luke 12:16-19

And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."'"

Vs.

Luke 12:48

But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

1 Peter 2:20-21

For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

The cost of loving your neighbor

John 15:12-13

"This is my commandment, that you love one another *as I have loved you*. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

- Without significant cost, an action should not be viewed as valuable...

Book: "Jesus and the disinherited", Howard Thurman

- people should not be the objects of programs but be the subject of relationships

Book: "The cost of Discipleship", Bonhoeffer

- To allow a baptized brother to take

Application: What do we do when you aren't at church?

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- blow up socially-constructed traditions
- Instead, radically love your neighbor

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1 Corinthians 1:27-28

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are