

Main Point: We are called to be **OUTstanding** in our love for others... even those we don't like.

What is going on at this point in Jesus' Ministry?

- Jesus is sending out disciples.

Luke 10:1 (ESV) After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

- Things are starting to heat up! Jesus is not only responding to questions; now He is instigating tough conversations.
- Jesus has set His face towards Jerusalem. (**Luke 9:51**)
- Jesus is getting closer and closer to going to the cross.

Luke 10:25-37 (ESV) ²⁵And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷And 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." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He 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. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Each Character in the story represents a different attitude/posture when it comes to how we love others.

Priest: Didn't want to get his _____.

- Of all the characters in this story, the Priest should have been the most likely to stop and help.
 - ⇒ He would have known **Leviticus 19:18** (ESV) You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.
- He was probably on his way to the temple which meant that he had already gone through the cleansing rituals. Touching a dead person would mean that he would become unclean.

Personal reflection: I will love the people that God puts in my path unless it interferes with...

Levite: Controlled by _____.

- Levites were very important in the keeping of the temple. The Levite that Jesus speaks of in the text is not a priest but more a “helper of the priest.”
- He would have known that
 - ⇒ Robberies on the Jericho Road were common
 - ⇒ Was at far more risk than the priest (traveling alone)
- The Levite had the “What If” conversation with himself in his head:
 - ⇒ What if I stop and get robbed and beat up?
 - ⇒ What if I don’t make it to the temple on time?
 - ⇒ What if the man is dead... I’ll be unclean?

Personal Reflection: My biggest fear when it comes to loving people that I don’t necessarily like is...

Samaritan: Breaks the _____.

- Samaritans were literally considered SCUM by the Jews...
 - ⇒ So much so that the name Samaritan from a Jewish perspective was synonymous with the word “Devil” or “Heretic.”
 - ⇒ The Samaritans would throw the bones of deceased humans into the temple, which from a Jew’s perspective, would make the entire temple unclean.
 - ⇒ There was a Jewish proverb that said *“A piece of bread given by a Samaritan is more unclean than swine’s flesh.”*
 - ⇒ The Jews called a group of Samaritans a “herd.”
- Jesus uses the Samaritan because he should have been the least likely to show love and kindness to the Jewish man.

1 Corinthians 1:27-31 ^(ESV) ²⁷ 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; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” [emphasis added]

Who has God put on your path? Even if you don’t like them or agree with them, we are still called by God to be **OUTstanding** in our love for people.

Questions to meditate on & discuss:

1. Who is easy to “walk by” and not truly love?
2. In what ways has God shown you His unconditional love?
3. Who do you know who needs that same unconditional love?
4. What are some practical ways you can love those around you?