

Kindness

Sowing Seeds, Growing Gardens --part 3

September 24, 2017

In our series theme: Sowing Seeds, Growing Gardens. We are looking at how to reach out to lost people, those who don't yet know Christ. In the first week we looked at the importance of simple care for people. Last week we looked at simple words, creating normal conversations which allow you begin to move the topic to spirituality. This week we'll look at practical kindness.

DAY 1: Just being "religious" won't win anyone to Christ.

Luke 10:25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

1. An "expert in the law" was an extremely religious Jewish leader. Typically, their highest value was being religious, doing the "right" religious deeds. How they treated people was not a value. Typically, these kind of men were so focused on doing their religious deeds in the "right" way that they tended to be critical and negative about those who didn't do their religious deeds "correctly."

2. Look back at the question he asks Jesus in Luke 10:25. How do you think Jesus would answer it?

Luke 10:26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

3. Jesus doesn't answer his question, directly. I believe Jesus saw the inherent pride in the man, a blindness to his own sin. Perhaps what he was really looking for was affirmation from Jesus.

Luke 10:27 He answered: "'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 neighbor as yourself.'"

4. The expert in the law knew the "right answer." But there was a huge disconnect between knowing the right answer and doing the right answer!

5. How would the man ever see this massive disconnect? Perhaps only as he tried to actually love God and love people would he see how woefully short he (and we) fell.

Luke 10:28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

6. Already, the man was beginning to show his "true colors," ...

Luke 10:29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

7. It is one thing to know we should love God and people as our highest priority. The real question is, are we doing it? How are you doing in loving God and loving people?

DAY 2: The parable of the good Samaritan

1. In order to help the man see himself, Jesus tells this famous parable.

Luke 10:30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

2. A team of bandits beat and rob a traveler, leaving him for dead.

There are three characters who subsequently walk along the same road and see the victim. Who are they?

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

3. The priest works in the temple, performing sacrifices in behalf of the people. The Levite is a worker in the temple. Both men would have had universal admiration in Jewish culture.

4. What did both of them do when they saw the victim?

5. Why do you think the priest and Levite did what they did? List as many reasons as you can.

6. Learning to share our faith begins with engaging with people. Are any of the reasons you listed in question #5 true of you? What are one or two?

7. Talk to God about your answer to question #6.

DAY 3: The good Samaritan's deeds and heart

Luke 10:33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

³⁴ *He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.*

³⁵ *The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'*

³⁶ *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"*

³⁷ *The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

1. How did the Samaritan handle the situation with the victim? List every action he did, below:

2. How would you summarize what the Samaritan did?

3. What do you believe motivated the Samaritan? (Hint: there is likely more than one answer.)

4. Which of the motivations you listed in question #3 are true of you?

A. Which aren't?

B. Which of those do you wish were more important motivations to you?

C. Ask God to make it so!

DAY 4: What's REALLY important to us drives us, not just what we SAY is important.

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1. Jesus taught the "second mile principle." The gist is, "do more than what is requested or required." (Matt. 5:41). What ways did the Samaritan illustrate the second mile principle? (vv. 34-35)

2. What contrast is Jesus making between the priest and Levite, with the Samaritan?

3. What we **really** believe is important drives our behavior, not just what *we think* is important.

A. What was **really** important to the priest and Levite? (Luke 10:31-32)

B. What was **really** important to the Samaritan?

C. What is **really** important to you?

DAY 5: Kindness is no virtue until its practiced and seen.

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1. Jesus finishes the parable and addresses the expert in the Law, again.

2. What question does Jesus ask the expert? (v. 36)

3. Why do you think Jesus asked the expert in the law this question?

4. What was the expert's answer? (v. 37)

5. What does having mercy mean to you?

6. Jesus said, "Go and do likewise." How would this change how you treat the people:

A. At work or school?

B. In your home?

C. At church?

Summary: Being a neighbor means engaging with anyone God brings your way. Do what you can to make a difference! The essence of the story is the willingness to engage, to jump in the pool!