

Sunday Message Meditation: October 19, 2014

Text: Luke 10:25-37

- I. To inherit eternal life the law says: *"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."*
 - II. Jesus doesn't draw boundaries on who the neighbors are. He defines who a neighbor is: someone who shows mercy and active compassion to anyone in need - no matter their race, religion, politics or country of origin.
 - a. Jesus uses a hated foreigner (an illegal immigrant) as the neighbor of His parable.
 - b. Neighbors show mercy and meet needs no matter who the needy are.
 - III. We have a failing record of being neighborly. We have fallen grossly short of what the law requires.
 - a. We are not very neighborly to strangers.
 - b. We even fail at being neighborly to people we have consciously chosen to be neighborly toward.
 - IV. Jesus performed the law perfectly. We need His record if we are to be justified and inherit eternal life. God justifies those who believe in Jesus - He gives them Jesus' record and eternal life.
 - a. Jesus is the good neighbor. By His stripes we are healed.
 - b. Jesus loved us when we were His enemy, and in compassion He met our greatest need.
 - V. The *"go and do likewise"* command is an impossibility for us to do on our own. Having received grace (God being neighborly toward us in Jesus) the *"go and do likewise"* become an awesome opportunity to participate with God in His life and work.
 - a. We need not fear failure for we have been given Jesus' record.
 - b. We are free to experiment with being neighborly toward those we encounter who are in need.
 - c. We don't need to change the world – just faithfully minister to those God has put in our lives.
1. Are you striving to be the "good Samaritan" – or have you received the record of the Good Samaritan by placing your faith in Him and His performance on your behalf?
 2. How does Jesus being neighborly toward you, and His record of perfection credited to you, liberate you to be neighborly to others?
 3. How does religion get in the way of being neighborly? How does a relationship with God liberate neighborliness?