

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

The Good Samaritan

ALTERNATE TUNE: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (ST. DENIO)

Luke 10:25-37

♩ = 120

D D G/D D G⁶ G D A⁷_E

1. For life in its full - ness, put love in con - trol. Love
2. You wres - tle with ques - tions. There's more you would know. Just
3. Con - sid - er a trav - 'ler just work - ing for bread. He's
4. Then one came and put his a - gen - da a - side. He

D A⁺_{C#} B_m A A_G

God with your heart, with your bod - y and soul. And
who is your neigh - bor? How far must you go? Com -
beat - en and robbed and then left there for dead. Some
helped him and healed him and gave him a ride. When

D_{F#} F^{#m}_A G D_{F#} Em⁷

see all your neigh - bors? Go love them as well, And
pas - sion - ate love is not sim - ple and neat. Turn
pass him, and kind - ness is what they pro - fess, But
strug - gling, which one are you long - ing to see? Then

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

BETSY
11.11.11.11.

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D F#m7 C# Bm7 Bm G6 G D

care for each one as you care for your - self.
 loose of your com - forts. Get in - to the street!
 they keep on go - ing, ig - nor - ing the mess.
 go be a neigh - bor to some - one in need!

TOPICS: God's Love; Missions & Evangelism; Relationships; Serving in Christ's Name

LEAD-IN: *An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

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

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.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

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

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. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 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.... Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:25-34, 36-37, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

The Good Samaritan

“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.’”

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

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

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10:27, 29-37, NIV)

I see myself in this story. But I am not always the Samaritan.

Sometimes I am the expert in the law. God’s wisdom for us is clear and simple: treat your neighbor the way you want to be treated. But when I fail, when the golden rule isn’t comfortable, I try to “justify” myself with questions and reasoning: “But who *is* my neighbor? How far does my responsibility *really* go?”

Sometimes I am the priest. Though a neighbor’s need is obvious, I have something more pressing to do, and more convenient. I pretend not to see.

But the closer I grow to God, the more His love grips my heart. The more I love Him, the more I care about those He loves. How can I ignore those that matter so deeply to Him?

Every parent, every loving spouse, every true friend knows that love has its own logic and its own agenda. It doesn’t always make sense to others. That is the logic and agenda my Father wants for me as I live in this needy world, full of people He loves. In every needy “neighbor” He wants me to see my child, my spouse, my dear friend...myself.

When I am needy and hurting, I am desperate to see that Good Samaritan come along. Father, help me to *be* a neighbor to the needy persons I meet.

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