

Background:

Series looking at the virtue of character of different people in the Bible.

When we think of an individual's character, we think of the mental and moral qualities of their behavior.

When we speak of their virtue, we are talking about them exhibiting behavior that shows high moral standards.

Text for Today:

Luke 10:25-37

25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" 27 So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' " 28 And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." 29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' 36 So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" 37 And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Main Statement:

God's love working in us will compel us to have love and compassion toward someone—especially someone we don't know!

UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN'S ACTION:

1. Acts of love and compassion is about properly **responding to Jesus.**

Luke 10:27a

...‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’...

1 John 4:8-11

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

2. Whether you desire to do good, or try to force yourself to do good, we are really totally **dependent** on the influential **grace** of God.

Luke 10:27b

...and your neighbor as yourself.

Romans 12:10

Love one another with brotherly affection...

1 Peter 1:22

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.

1 Corinthians 4:7

For what gives you the right to make such a judgment? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?

Galatians 5:22a

But the fruit of the Spirit is love...

3. The emotion of Love propels the **strength** of our **character**

Luke 6:45

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Ephesians 5:2

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

APPLYING THE LESSON OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN:

1. He saw a **need**, not a **face**, and got **involved**.

1 John 3:17

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

James 2:14-17

14 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 16 and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? 17 So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

2. He didn't measure **risk** or **reward**; he just did what was **needed**.

1 Timothy 1:5

The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.

3. He was not too **busy** to show **mercy** and **compassion** to his neighbor.

2 Corinthians 9:7

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

Reflection:

- What do you need to do today to properly respond to Jesus?
- Consider how you allow God's love to work through you toward others.