

Following Jesus
33, True Compassion (The Good Samaritan)
Luke 10:25-37

I. Message

a. **Real love is not the same thing as religious connection**

- i. “31 And by chance there came down a certain **priest** that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.”
- ii. Where was Jericho in relation to Jerusalem? – v.30
 1. Down in elevation (everywhere was)
 2. About 18 miles (a very long day)
 3. Totally baren and parched dessert
 4. Isolated terrain with lots of hiding places
 5. Ideal for bandits
- iii. This was an obviously dangerous place for a lone traveler
- iv. So, a priest sees him in this condition, crosses to the other side of the path, and keeps on walking – v.31
 1. Who were the priests?
 2. The formal religious leaders
 - a. Well-regarded, trained in religious matters and the OT law
 - b. Leaders of temple worship
 - c. We might think of them as the “pastors” of the OT
 - d. The priests could be considered the religiously connected
 - e. They had POSITION
 3. But he illustrates something profound about real love
 4. Real love is not the same as religious leadership, role, responsibility
- v. How we might be guilty of the same
 1. Being “connected” in ministry does not mean you love correctly
 2. Being PERCEIVED as religious does not mean you love correctly
 - a. Jesus was not interested in someone looking religious
 - b. He was interested in compassionate love
 - i. The religious leader of Jesus’ day were experts at LOOKING religious
 - ii. **Matthew 23:1-13**
 1. The problem was NOT looking religious
 2. They had that down pat
 3. The problem was hypocrisy
 4. Looking religious, while being selfish
 5. **James 1:27**

b. **Real love is not the same thing as religious closeness**

- i. “32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on

him, and passed by on the other side.”

- ii. The Levite also crosses the path and keeps on moving
- iii. Who were the Levites?
 1. Provided support to the religious leaders
 2. They were sometimes referred to as the “lower priesthood”
 - a. They manned the temple gates, cleaned, performed music
 - b. “Second tier” of religious leaders
 - i. They had the pedigree
 - ii. They just lacked the title
 - iii. They hung out with the religious leaders
 - iv. They were associated with religious practices
 - c. But the one in Jesus’ parable lacked real love
- iv. How we might be guilty of the same?
 1. Christians love to be associated with certain names – close to religious “influencers”
 - a. Jesus is not interested in pedigree
 - b. He is interested in compassionate love
 - c. **John 8:39-44**
 2. Being close to religious leaders does not qualify you

c. Real love looks like compassion (sacrificial mercy)

- i. **“33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him.”**
- ii. Who were the Samaritans?
 1. Racially different than the Jews
 2. Religiously different
 3. Because of these things they were also culturally separate
 4. But in close proximity
- iii. How we might follow his example:
 1. Sacrifice of normal bias
 2. Sacrifice of time – He met his immediate need
 3. Sacrifice of comfort -He made personal sacrifice
 4. Sacrifice of resources – He tried to ensure future needs were met

II. Conclusions and applications – how do we “go and do likewise”?

- a. Don’t give ourselves too much credit for roles (religious connection)
- b. Don’t give ourselves too much credit for associations (closeness)
- c. Seek to show sacrificial compassion to those who need our help
 - i. Suggestions:
 1. Think intentionally – Be on the lookout for opportunities
 2. Think corporately – Help through the church
 3. Think personally – Be ready in the moment