

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“Being A Good Neighbor”

By Brian Meade

In Luke 10:25-37, we have the powerful and compelling story of what has become to be known as, “The Good Samaritan.” Jesus illustrates, to those— who were not good neighbors to all— that doing good must be something we put the time, effort, and expense into helping others.

As we recall in the parable, the priest and the Levite both “*passed by on the other side*” after seeing the man, who was beaten and robbed, lying on the ground (Luke 10:31-32).

It was the Samaritan who stopped and helped the man, “*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. 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.’*” (Luke 10:34-35).



The actions of the Samaritan was in stark contrast to the priest and Levite, so much so, that it was overwhelmingly obvious when Jesus asked the question, “*So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?*” (Luke 10:36). (“*..He who showed mercy on him.*” vs.37).

This story, and other Bible Scriptures, teach us how to be a good neighbor. So it is with great care and thoughtfulness, that we study this important subject!

I. Who Is My Neighbor?

This is actually the follow-up question that the lawyer asked Jesus in an attempt to justify himself (Luke 10:29). The original question in verse 25, was concerning eternal life, and how to have it under the Law of Moses.

Jesus asked him, He said to him, “*What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?*” And the lawyer gave Jesus the right answer in saying, “*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.’*” And He said to him, “*You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.*” You might be thinking, “How did he try to justify himself?”

It seems that the lawyer was posing the question to limit who his neighbors were to just Jews only. We all know very well the prejudices and partialities in the treatment of Jews toward the Gentiles, and even the Samaritans. But Jesus used a Samaritan as the hero and the good example of being a good neighbor to a Jew who was in dire need of help!

The answer to “Who is my neighbor?” was demonstrated by the parable. That being a neighbor to someone is more than just the helping those in our immediate area, that only live on our street, that have the same race, or nationality. It is not limited to just people we like, and find it easy helping them above others. So, whether you are black, white, or any other skin color or ethnicity... You are my neighbor! A true neighbor helps those in need regardless!

II. Some Bible Responsibilities To My Neighbor.

1. Love Our Neighbors.

Looking back to the answer of the lawyer, he knew the Law and stated that one must truly love God, *and 'your neighbor as yourself.'* (Luke 10:27).

The priest and Levite, who did not help for whatever reasons or excuses, show us the lack of love for their neighbor in neglect. *"But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion."* (Luke 10:33). Love and compassion go together in our service to others. Notice Peter's words in 1 Peter 3:8, *"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous:"*

The apostle Paul said in Romans 13:8-10, *"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."*

2. Live Peaceably With Our Neighbors.

In Romans 12:18, Paul gives all Christians the instructions, *"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."*

This means I must do all I can possibly do to live in such a way with my neighbor so that I can enjoy peace continually. How do I do that in practical terms? It's by eliminating things that I can that might be antagonistic and going against peace, harmony, and quietness of being a good neighbor. We simply can't be that obnoxious, loud, and unreasonable neighbor that many see no problem being. We cannot help what others around us do in this regard, but God calls us to be peaceable (2 Corinthians 13:11; Galatians 5:22; 2 Timothy 2:22). We can make decisions and do what we can in making peace with our neighbor.

3. To Guide Your Neighbor In The Right Way.

"The righteous is a guide to his neighbor, But the way of the wicked leads them astray." (Proverbs 12:26 NASB) A good neighbor will say what is right, truthful, and helpful to edify his neighbor in the ways of God. He does not speak, act, and dress in the ways of the world (Romans 12:1-2), but is a guide by a good example of being a Christian (Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 2:15).

This shows that we are neighborly by being interested in saving our neighbor's soul, and our's as well (1 Timothy 4:16; Matthew 4:19). It would be a tragic thing to be so careless in our life as a Christian to be a poor guide to our neighbor. Teaching them God's plan of salvation is a must! (Mark 16:15-16).

4. To Speak Truth With Our Neighbor.

We are to follow the teaching of Ephesians 4:25, *"Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another."* Paul is quoting from Zechariah 8:16 and making a New Testament application for us today.

We are to be people who are honest, forthright, and thus trusted to speak only what is right. Imagine the reproach we would bring to Christ, if we are caught up in a web of lies and deceit, as supposed followers of Christ. It would hurt our influence and example to be found as one who speak lies.

5. Don't Mistreat your Neighbor.

In the Old Testament, Moses wrote, *"If a person sins and commits a trespass against the Lord by lying to his neighbor about what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or about a pledge, or about a robbery, or if he has extorted from his neighbor,"* (Leviticus 6:2). In Jeremiah 22:13, *"Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness And his chambers by injustice, Who uses his neighbor's service without wages And gives him nothing for his work,"* (See also James 5:4).

If the Law of Moses warned against this abuse of a neighbor, then it would be those who disregarded God's word would violate these commandments!

6. Do Good To Our Neighbor.

When we think of what it means to be a good neighbor, we tend to think about helping out someone in need. The good Samaritan is the perfect example of someone going out of his way to help that wounded Jew.

The Bible teaches Christians to be *"zealous for good works."* (Titus 2:14; 3:8). The good Samaritan also helps us know the true meaning of Galatians 6:10, *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."*

Let us imitate his example of being a good neighbor!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Fred Johnson, Sherry Doles, Mrs. Jennie Daniel (Dan and Lynlie's neighbor), J F Dancer, and Earl Mitchell.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Sam Johnson
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"Christ Lives In Me"</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Paul Johnson
	1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page 40, Question #23</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Russell Briggs
	<i>1 John 5:3-4</i>
Song Leader:	Adam Harris
Lord's Supper:	Doug George
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"The Victories Of Conversion"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Lee Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

July 14th:

Auditorium Bible Class:	Russell Briggs
	The Book of Proverbs (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page #49, Question #1</i>
Invitation:	Adam Harris
Song Leader:	Jerry Kennemur
Closing Prayer:	Nathan Meade



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“Christ Lives In Me”

Lesson Text: **Galatians 2:20.**

– How Does Christ Dwell In Me?

- 1. As Christ Dwells In My Heart By Faith- Revelation 3:20; Ephesians 3:17.**
- 2. As I Am A “Letter of Christ”- 2 Corinthians 3:3; John 15:7.**
- 3. As His Teachings Are Exemplified Through Me- John 14:23; 1 Cor. 11:1.**
- 4. As He Works Through Me- Phil. 2:13; John 10:37-38; 14:7-11; John 9:4.**
- 5. As Christ Uses My Influence To His Glory- Matt. 5:14-16; 2 Thess. 1:11-12.**
- 6. As I Proclaim His Suffering & Death To The World- 1 Cor. 11:23-26.**
- 7. As Christ Suffers When I Suffer- Acts 9:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:26.**
- 8. As I Wear Christ’s Name- 1 Peter 4:14-16; James 2:6-7.**
- 9. As Christ Says “Come” Through Me- Revelation 22:17; Matthew 11:28-30.**

– When Does Christ Live In Me?

When I Obey The Gospel of Christ- **Galatians 3:26-29.**

Conclusion: Colossians 1:26-29.

“Victories In Conversion”

1. *nike* (νίκη, 3529), “victory,” is used in **1 John 5:4**.

nikao (νικάω, 3528), “to conquer, overcome,” is translated “(them) that come victorious (from)” in Rev. 15:2, rv (kjv, “that had gotten the victory”). See conquer, overcome, prevail.” Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 660).

I. Victory Over Indifference In Hearing.

- **Luke 8:15— vs. 11-14.**
- **Romans 10:12-21; Acts 10:33.**
- **Acts 17:18-21; vs. 32-34; 1 Corinthians 1:22-23.**

II. Victory Over Doubt In Believing.

- **1 John 5:4; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:1.**
- **John 20:26-29; vs. 30-31.**
- **2 Thessalonians 3:2.**

III. Victory Over Indecision In Repentance.

- **Revelation 2:20-23; 2 Corinthians 7:10.**
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11.**
- **Acts 17:30-31; 1 Thessalonians 1:9.**
- **Luke 15:5-7.**

IV. Victory Over Cowardice In Confession.

- **Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10.**
- **John 12:42-43; 1 Timothy 6:12-13.**

V. Victory Over Rebellion In Baptism.

- **Luke 7:30; Mark 16:15-16.**
- **Acts 2:37-38; vs. 40-41; vs. 46-47.**
- **Acts 8:35-40 (vs. 38-39).**
- **Acts 6:7.**

VI. Victory Over Satan in Obedience.

- **Acts 26:15-18; vs. 19-23; vs. 27-29.**

Conclusion: Romans 8:37.