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Campbell Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church

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Have Compassion

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

Have Compassion*November 25, 2009*

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Luke 10:25-37

25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor?

30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, 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 on him,

34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?

37 And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

When we read not only this story, many different things in the scriptures that we read, we want to try to make everything mean something. Everything does mean something; however, many times we try to make it mean something other than what it really means.

In this story here tonight, we want to make the priest represent one thing and the Levite represent something else and we want to make the Good Samaritan, Jesus. If you take that approach, on not only this story but also any scripture that you read, if you take that approach in reading the Bible, you can prove anything you want to. If you take that approach, that it is going to mean something other than what He is saying here. Do not misunderstand. There are many great pictures here painted for us and many great spiritual things that are here that will help us—but when we take that approach trying to

make it mean something that the scripture is not teaching then we can prove anything. Many times, we will be misled or we will mislead other people. Of all the great things to learn from this, the first is this.

25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

We know the lawyers were taught in the Old Testament Law. They were very smart people. They were very learned people. When the Jewish people would have a question about the Law, concerning conduct that they may have, or something they did not understand about what they could do and could not do; they would go to a lawyer. The lawyer would explain what the Law said about what they could legally do and not do. Again, he was a very well learned fellow.

The Bible says that he came to Jesus tempting Him. He came to Jesus and he came for the wrong motive, first of all. He came tempting Him. The word “tempt” means “to put to the test” or “to try to trap Him.” That is really, what they were trying to do. They were trying to discredit Jesus in front of the people. They wanted Jesus to answer a question in a way that all the people would quit following Him because of the answer He gave. He was tempting Him.

He came and asked this question.

25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Even though he came with the wrong motive, that was a good question, and I think that is something that individuals today should ask themselves. There were two questions actually. This first question is a great question. “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus is going to tell him here. We could talk about that for a long time, but we want to hurry along here.

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

The lawyer asked Jesus, “What shall I do that I might inherit eternal life?” Jesus just puts it right back on him. Jesus says here, “What is written in the law? How readest thou?” In other words, what do you think that the law says? What do you know that the law says? In other words, Jesus says, “You know what the law says. How do you understand things in there?”

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.

That was the correct answer. Do you know what we know? The answer to eternal life lays in the Word of God. If we want to know how to go to heaven, if we want to know what we can do or what we must do to go to heaven; we know that we can find that in the Bible. We understand that. Don’t we?

This man here understood that. When you look at the Old Testament law, we know that there was nothing in the Old Testament law that could bring us unto Salvation. There was nothing in the Law that could give us salvation. We also know—we read this in our lesson in the last couple of days from the

book of Galatians, that the law was our schoolmaster. The Old Testament law pointed us and showed us that we needed to get saved. There was nothing in the Old Testament law that could save us. It was not there. However, it pointed us to the fact that we were sinners and that we needed to get saved. That is what the Word of God does.

If there is no conviction of your sin then there can never be any conversion. If the Word of God never convicts you, shows you the error of your way, and shows you that you are a sinner that you are lost and undone then you will never get saved. Some people see their neighbor's sin and they see their kids' sin. They can see everybody else's sin, but they do not want to look at self. If we are going to inherit eternal life, if we are going to live forever, then we are going to have to understand that we need to get saved. The only way to get saved is looking into the Word of God, believing, and doing what it says to do. That is the only way to get there. Church membership and those things are not going to take us to heaven. They might make us feel good and they might make us accepted with the crowds or with the community but that will not get us ready to go to heaven. All the ordinances that we may do, and all the things that we may participate in might make us feel good. All the religious things that we do might make us feel good and might even make us grow some spiritually. However, all those things will not bring us to a place to get to heaven. We do many things because we are saved. We come to church, and practice in many different things. We have ordinances that we believe and we do. We do those things because we are saved, not to get us saved.

The question he asked, "What can I do to inherit eternal life?" The lawyer gave the right answer. Now look what Jesus says here.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

If that were the end of the story, it would be okay. However, that is not the end of the story. Jesus said, "You gave the right answer. What you have said is truth. If you want to inherit eternal life, you just said the right thing. If you will do that, you can go to heaven." Look what this guy does.

29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor?

Jesus said, "You answered right. Do this and you can live." " But he, willing to justify himself..."

We do that a lot. What this fellow is trying to do is he is trying to prove that what he is doing is right. He is trying to prove that his standing with God on this particular day was right. That is what he was trying to do. We do that a lot too. Many times, we do things that are not right. We sin. We do not like to use that term, but Christian people do sin. Many times, we try to justify what we are trying to do and what we have done. We try to justify that because of many different reasons. Sometimes we try to blame it on others. Sometimes we blame it on kids. Sometimes we blame it on *circumstances*. There is no way that we can justify ourselves if we are not living right with God. You cannot justify yourself.

He says, "Who's my neighbor?" He is trying to say, "I don't really know who my neighbor is." I understand to love the Lord thy God with thy heart, soul, mind, and strength. "Who is my neighbor?" That is a good question.

30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

Jesus is telling this man about an individual that goes from Jerusalem to Jericho. He falls among thieves. If you read history about this time, you will find that the road from Jerusalem to Jericho was a very dangerous place. So much so, that this eighteen or twenty mile stretch of road was called “the way of blood.” So many people were killed and destroyed on this road, if you read history and if history is right then that is what they will tell you. We know that his fellow here is traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. He fell among thieves and the thieves come out and get him, wound him, rob him leaving him beside the road half-dead. That is what the Bible says.

When we look at this picture, we do not see some things.

31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

Look at these two individuals. Here this man is lying beside the road wounded. When we look at this guy, we can say this guy was reckless. We can say that this guy was stupid. We can say that this guy was careless. We can say this guy just lost his mind for even being on this road in the first place. We can say all those things. We can say that he knew better than to go on down this road. He knew better than to go on this road with thieves on it. We can say all that and it would probably all be true.

However, here is the thing. Here comes a priest and here comes a Levite. The priest was a fellow who worked in the temple. If history is correct, probably about twenty some thousand priests lived in Jericho. They would go to Jerusalem. There were twenty-four orders of priests. We know the Old Testament. They would go there and fulfill their responsibilities and they would go be to their home.

A priest comes. I do not know if he was going or coming from Jerusalem, but he goes over and see this guy wounded. Do you know what he does? He just went on. He sees this guy in need, but he just goes on. The Bible goes on and says that he “...departed, leaving him half dead..., and passed by on the other side.” When you read that in the original it says, “He made haste and left.” In other words, when he saw this guy wounded beside the road, he got in a hurry and he left.” I do not know why he got in such a hurry.

However, I thought about today—this guy was in need. Many times in my life and in your life, we see all kinds of people who are in need. We see people everywhere in need. Do you know what we do? We do the same thing as this priest did. He did not want to be defiled. If he touched this man and he was dead then he would be defiled. He would have to go do some things to be cleansed before he could go back and do his responsibilities. Maybe he was going home. Maybe he did not have time. Maybe he was tired. Maybe he was letting work interfere with seeing this guy’s need and taking care of it.

We do the same thing many times. We see people's need. We see people in dire need who are hungry and need our help. However, do you know what we do many times? Because of our responsibilities, we think, we just walk on by. Sometimes the religious things that we participate in, we think are more important than actually helping somebody.

The love of God does not and cannot stand alone. What I mean by that is if we say that we love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; then there has to be more to things than just saying that. When we say that then there has to be a demonstration of love in our heart if we are really saved. If we love the Lord like we say that we do with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength then there will be a demonstration of love in our hearts. Does everybody agree with that? We cannot remain dormant. We cannot remain on the sidelines and love the Lord thy God, with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. It is impossible. There is something wrong when we do that. People are hurting. People are dying.

This guy here; he was in bad shape. The priest came along. He was a fellow, an individual that was a go between. The people would bring their sacrifices to him. He would take their sacrifices and offer it on the altar to Almighty God. If anybody should have been compassionate, it should have been him. Truth!?

This Levite worked in temple. He took care of the furniture. He did all kinds of things in the temple area. However, when he got there, he had a little bit more compassion in that he goes over and looks at him. Then he also leaves.

What I am saying tonight is this.

If our love for God is not demonstrated by compassion then we really do not love God. We were once the one laying beside the road, wounded and half-dead. We were once laying there. Somebody loved us enough to stop and help us. What I mean by that is somebody invited you to church. Somebody prayed for you. Somebody came along and said "Jesus loves you." Do you know what that is? That is showing compassion on you. That is seeing a need that they knew you had and their love was demonstrated by what they did. Do you know what? If we do not do that then we really do not love God. We are not saved by works. I am not saying that. However, when I love the Lord, thy God, with thy heart, soul, mind and strength then my life will demonstrate that. There will be a demonstration of the love of God in my life. If there is not then you may need to get saved. I am not trying to be mean or hard. We have a responsibility.

This priest and this Levite had a responsibility. This fellow here had a responsibility. Do you know what it was? It was number one: "to love the Lord, thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind and strength..." and number two: "to love his neighbor."

Get this.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

Do you know what we will do? We will show love or compassion towards our own family. If our family is in need then we will do anything to help them most of the time. If our kids are hurting, if our kids have need or other family members, we will do everything we can to help them. That is all good.

However, here is the problem. This guy said, "Who is my neighbor?" The priest saw the need and did not do anything about it. The Levite saw the need and did not do anything about it. However, here comes a Samaritan. If you know anything about Samaritans, the Jews and the Samaritans hated one another. They did not get along. They absolutely despised one another. Do you know what the love of God will do? The love of God is not prejudice. The love of God does not see skin color. The love of God does not see social status. The love of God sees a need.

I was talking to a fellow the other day and he was bigot. Do you know what a bigot is? It is someone who hates African Americans. This guy absolutely just hates these people. The sad part about it is this.

We live in a world full of people who may not be prejudice against this race or that race, but they have no compassion. They show no compassion. They say they love God. They love Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. However, they can see needs everywhere and walk right past them. Do you know why? It is because they are too busy. They say that they do not have time to do that and they hold grudges from years past. The Love of God does not hold grudges. It does not do that.

If you are holding grudges, you need to get right with God. You need to grow up. The love of God is greater than that.

Many people have done all kinds of dirt on me over the years. They have tried to destroy me and destroy my family. They have done all kinds of stuff. However, they need help. When I them in need, what kind of a person would I be or would you be if we just saw them in need, dying, laying there beside the road and just walk off and leave them. That would be a poor individual. Would it not?

This guy, even though he was Samaritan, he loved him. Even though the Jews hated him, he took care of him.

The answer to the question is this. The first question was "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" and the second question was "Who's my neighbor?" The answer to the first question is in the Word of God and we know that. The answer to the second question is also in the Word of God. The answer is this: anybody that is in my space who has a need that I can help is my neighbor.

Not everybody that comes to my house and comes to your house who says they have a need actually has a need.

Do you know what this guy here did? He did not buy him a house. He did not pay his utility bills for him. Did he? He did not buy any gas for his car. He did not do that. However, he did take care of the need

that guy had. He bound up his wounds and took him to a place down here where he could heal up. That is what he did for him.

Many times, people play people. Many times, they want to play games. However, those who have need, those who are dying lost, and those who are in our area that we must show compassion on; we can help them. They need what we are offering. Are we willing to take time to help them? Are we too busy doing religious things? Are we too busy with work? Are we in a hurry to get things done? People need our help. If you miss an hour of sleep today, you will be okay.

People need our help. When we encounter people who need our help then let us help them. There will be plenty of times to do these other things. There may not ever be another time for you to help that particular individual that is in your space on this particular night. There may never be another time. One thing; you may not be here. Also, they may not either. We have experienced that in life. That is not a good place. We had better take every opportunity that we have to do what we can to show compassion to those who need help and if we do that then we are fulfilling what the Bible says. If I say I love God then my love for God will be demonstrated in me showing compassion upon people.

Jesus loves us. If you are not ready to meet the Lord, this would be a good place for you to come and make things right with Him. He loves us and He cares about us. If you are not ready to meet the Lord tonight, call upon Him. Ask Him to forgive you of your sin. Ask Him to cleanse you. It will make a difference in your life.

Come—