

Fearless Good Samaritans Care for Others

Currently we are in the “Fearless” series as a church, and last week Pastor Tom talked about the story of David and Goliath. Pastor Tom shared about how David saw a giant but knew that his God was bigger than the giant. Most of us have had moments where we faced a giant and we needed God to intercede for us. Our world is in one of those moments right now, and we need to be praying that God would take what the enemy meant for evil and turn it for His kingdom.

This week, Pastor Tom spoke on the good Samaritan, and two perspectives of the story. Each perspective provides different kinds of responses to seeing others in need that we need to address to make sure we are living out our faith in Jesus.

25 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" 27 And he answered, "YOU SHALL 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 YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 28 And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE." 29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:25-29 (NASB)

30 Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. 31 "And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 "Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

Luke 10:30-32 (NASB)

The first perspective is that of the Priest and the Levite. Pastor Tom showed us that the Priest and Levite being religious people didn't mean that they cared. They saw the man, beaten and bloodied on the side of the road and not only did they not care, they literally passed on the other side. They were indifferent to the suffering of the man. This picture can be representative of us if we are not careful, are there moments in our life when we don't care about others? The worst part about this is not only how ungodly these, “men of god,” were acting, but how this must have made the victim feel. I wonder what he was thinking when he saw two men, both dressed in the outfits of our God walk right past? When he saw one walk by, he must have been hurt, but surely a second man of god wouldn't pass him by? He must have been devastated when he saw a second pass.

A good question to ask ourselves is how might we be acting like the religious person in our lives?

- Overlooking bullying
- Allowing your classmates to bully a teacher

- Not talking to a friend about a hurt they have
- Holding onto a grudge against a friend

33 "But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, 34 and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 "On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.' 36 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" 37 And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

Luke 10:33-37 (NASB)

However, the story takes a turn. A Samaritan walks by, now the context of this is important, because Samaritans hated Jews, and the same vice versa. The Samaritans were Jews that had begun to take on other beliefs when the northern tribe of Israel was conquered and dispersed throughout the land. The Jews no longer recognized the Samaritan's Jewish nationality which put a major divide and really a hatred between the two peoples. So, as Jesus tells the parable, no one thinks that a Samaritan would help a Jewish man, but that is exactly what he does. The Samaritan showed legitimate concern for the man and interrupted his own schedule to offer up aid. Not only was he willing to help him there, but he also took him to the inn, he gave the innkeeper some money on his behalf, and said that if it wasn't enough that he would bring more! The word that best sums up the character of the good Samaritan is compassion. He had compassion. How many of us are willing to show compassion, selflessness, friendship, etc. in a time that has been dominated by fear?

Another good question to ask ourselves is how can we act like the good Samaritan in our lives?

- When you stand up for others
- When you help those in need
- When you offer help to a that is struggling in class
- When you talk to a friend about mental health

It is in times of crisis that the Christian world can use fear to push people to faith. The Early church saw this happen as Pastor Sam shared about a few weeks ago. When a plague was going through Rome, the church made a name for themselves by sticking around and helping those in need. Even when it wasn't convenient for them. How are you doing this in this COVID-19 crisis?

Discussion Questions

1. What do you feel like the worship from home experience has been like?
2. How have you seen yourself be like the Priest and the Levite in your story?

3. How did that affect others?
4. Have you had moments where you see yourself being like the good Samaritan?
5. What happened when you were compassionate with someone else? What was their response?
6. Do you think that you allow fear to steal your joy? Even beyond just COVID-19.
7. What do you think the church needs to do in this crazy time?
8. What do you think you need to do? (Encourage your students to take an active part in what they said they felt the church needs to do. They are not the church of the future; they are the church of today!)
9. One of the cool things about this time is that God has cleared most of your schedules, how are you leveraging that time to grow in your relationship with Jesus?