

RESPOND (Application for this week) **WHAT** were the most significant scriptures for you this week? _____

WHY are those scriptures *significant to you* at this time in your life?

HOW can you practically apply what God spoke to you about this week?

[Try to respond in terms of specific action steps, specific people, long-term plan.]

WHAT will be the time frame for your application?

(1) Start Date _____ (2) **Progress** Check Date(s) _____ (3) Finish Date _____

WHO I can ask to hold me accountable for my application: _____

Sermon-Based Devotional

Lawrence Free Methodist Church
(Based on a Sermon by Pastor Bill Bump on February 18, 2018)

Series: The Gospel of LUKE

*Note – There is an OVERVIEW of Luke available on the kiosk where you pick up this Devotional. You may find it helpful in your study and processing of the sermon and this Sermon-Based Devotional.

Jesus: The Lord of Our Relationships

April 2000 USA Today article: *“Being a Good Samaritan means going out of your way to **help** a stranger in need with no expectation of **thanks or recognition.**”*

The situation began with a *question*.

READ the following two passages. **Mark what stands out to you.**

Luke 10:25 One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking Him this question: *“Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”*

Jesus responded and gave the *answer*.

Luke 10:26-29

²⁶ Jesus replied, *“What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?”*

²⁷ The man answered, *“‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

²⁸ *“Right!”* Jesus told him. *“Do this and you will live!”*

²⁹ The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, *“And who is my neighbor?”*

The lawyer asked a question he thought *excused* him from responsibility, but in doing so, he *condemned* himself instead.

The lawyer tried to excuse himself by *limiting* the number of people included in his circle when he used the term *neighbor*.

REFLECT Write your thoughts from what you marked in the above two passages. *i.e. – Jesus probably knew this “expert in religious law” had some type of motive other than truly wanting to be taught by Jesus – so He responded in a positive and inquiring manner that required a response and clarification of what this man knew and thought. What a great principle in having a dialog with doubters! -- Engage with them in a dialog that is interactive rather than one-sided. Now write your thoughts.*

Jesus followed up with an illustration.

READ Luke 10:30-37 Mark what stands out to you.

³⁰ Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, & left him half dead beside the road. ³¹ By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by.

³² A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. ³³ Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. ³⁴ Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.' ³⁶ Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. ³⁷ The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

Jesus shifted the focus.

Jesus told a story that changed the question from "What kind of person is my neighbor?" to "What kind of person am I?"

The lawyer tried to justify himself by asking who qualifies as a neighbor in the command, "Love your neighbor."

Jesus told a story in which the question about what kind of man is dying is not important; the whole focus was now on the kind of people walking by.

When we get to the end of the story, the question Jesus asked was not, "So, was the wounded man a neighbor?" Rather, it was, "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" (v. 36)

REFLECT I.E. - Jesus is still conversing with this "expert in religious law" (v. 25). Just as in verse 26, He (Jesus) is replying to this man as they continue their dialog. Beginning with verse 30, Jesus is responding to another question from him: "And who is my neighbor?" (v. 29). I find it interesting that Jesus doesn't give him an instant answer to his question. Rather - HE tells a story - which requires the man himself to be involved in coming to the right conclusion in response to his own question. If Jesus is my model for ministry and how I should relate to people, then I can learn from Him as to how I should manage conversations & respond to those whom God brings into my life. I need to pray for His wisdom as to how I respond to others & learn to engage with them as Jesus did. **Now write your thoughts from what you marked in Luke 10:30-37.**

More space is allowed on **Page 3** to write your thoughts from Luke 10:30-37. Try to keep it personal AND practical. → → →

What are some things you could do or adjustments you could make to begin following Jesus' example of how He related to & interacted with people?

Jesus concluded the story by issuing the religious lawyer and us a practical challenge.

READ Luke 10:37 The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

Jesus was saying, "Don't be so concerned with who your neighbor is. Instead, be proactive."

I want to challenge us with three words to live by if Jesus is going to be Lord of our relationships:

1. If Jesus is Lord of our relationships, we must be compassionate.

It seems like we have become so desensitized to evil in the world and to human suffering that it hardly fazes us anymore.

God created us with a capacity for compassion.

2. If Jesus is Lord of our relationships, we must be willing to take action.

We need to get involved.

It is important for us to begin to recognize that, for us to make a difference in this world, there must be an investment of time and energy.

3. If Jesus is Lord of our relationships, we must practice self-sacrifice.

Special needs sometimes call for a special expression of love.

Conclusion

Instead of defining who our neighbor might be, Jesus challenges us to become a new kind of person.

Ezekiel 36:26 "And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart." [The Lord God]

My prayer is that each of us will develop a heart of compassion leading to a hands-on, messy, sacrificial, time-consuming action, founded on sacrifice with no expected return.