

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Luke 10:25-37; Acts 9:36-39--March 17th, 2024

Sermon Recap:

A Call to Mercy Ministry

Mercy ministry is helping people in a practical manner in the name of Jesus Christ.

I. Samaritan's Lesson (Luke 10:25-37)

Samaritans were despised by the Jewish community; seen as unclean, pagan, enemies. Yet, in this parable, the Samaritan is the hero who stops to help the victim.

a. Law

- "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"
 - The law requires perfect love: "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."
 - "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus responds with the parable of the Good Samaritan.
 - Loving your neighbor is not just loving your fellow Jew, your fellow countryman, your brother, your kinsman according to the flesh. The requirement of the law is that you actually love your enemy, and that you love your enemy in this very practical way. The Samaritan met the practical needs of the victim.
 - None of us are capable of this perfect love required by the law.

b. Gospel

- There is one who has kept the law perfectly. There is one who has loved perfectly and we see that in the gospel; the gospel that says, "It is do what we do that saves us, but what has been done for us that saves."
- What did Christ do for us? We are the one in the ditch, desperate and dying, hopeless and Christ comes as a loving neighbor, knowing we have made ourselves his enemy, and yet he shows us infinite mercy at his own expense.

c. Practice

- The love, grace, and mercy shown to us in the gospel will compel us to show that same love, grace, and mercy to others who were/are in the same position we once belonged.
- This ministry is evidence of the life of Christ in us.
- Mercy Ministry is a fruit of salvation (Matthew 25:31-46)

II. Being Tabitha (Acts 9:36-39)

- Tabitha was a woman in Joppa known for good works and acts of charity.
- She passed away and was resurrected by the Lord through Peter.
- Her mercy ministry consisted of sewing/knitting clothing for those she loved.

Discussion Questions:

- What is mercy ministry?
- What does the law require of us to inherit eternal life?
- How is the gospel present in the parable of the Good Samaritan?
- How does the gospel lead us to practice mercy ministry?
- How does mercy ministry provide evidence of salvation?
- Who was Tabitha and what was her ministry?
- How did she display mercy?

Application:

- How has Christ shown mercy to you?
- Who is your neighbor?
- To whom can you be a loving neighbor?
- Is there evidence of salvation in your life shown through service to “the least of these?”
- How can you improve that ministry?

