

Unfinished -- Not Finished in All the World

Luke 10:1-3 and 10:25-37

Acts 9:10-15

(November 25-December 1, 2018)

According to J.B. Cachila in the article titled, "Why Is It So Hard to Love Others?" the Lord Jesus told us that we ought to love our neighbors as ourselves. This command is non-negotiable: we should love our fellow Christians and those who are not Christians around us and around the world. Many of us, however, find it really hard to love others. We find it difficult, even impossible, to do. And no matter how much we try to reach out to others, we just can't sustain it; we end up walking away wounded and more unable to love others with God's love. (*Christianity Today*, March 2018)

Answer and discuss the following question with your group

1. Do you agree with Cachila's statement that many of us find it difficult to love Christians and those who are not Christians around the world? Why or why not?

Read the following excerpt out loud or watch message segment #1

An excerpt from the StoneBridge message, "Not Finished in All the World".

So Jesus says – what is written in the law? How do you read it? The lawyer knew the answer. You would have had to be living under a rock not to know that answer if you grew up as a Jew. Maybe the lawyer had another question to ask – a real zinger. This was the set up. But he answers, "Love the lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." The way you loved God like that? Keep the Law of Moses. You keep God's law – you keep God happy. Love God and love your neighbor. "OK," Jesus says, "Do this and you will live." End of conversation. End of story. This is what it is all about. This is what Moses was all about. This is what the entire Old Testament is about. Jesus takes it to an interesting place. Love for God looked a lot like love for your neighbor. Anyone who had mistreated a neighbor didn't love God. You can't love God and not love your neighbor.

Read Luke 10:25-37 and answer/discuss the following questions.

2. From Luke 10:30, we know a man was traveling from one city to another just a typical activity. On the way he was robbed, stripped, beaten and left for dead. Many believers and nonbelievers in our world also experience things in their everyday life that leave them feeling stripped and beaten. What are some examples we read about in newspapers, online or see on the news?

3. In Leviticus 19:18, God told the people of Israel to love their own people (neighbors) as they would love themselves. In Luke 10:31-33 we read about three different individuals coming upon the man who had been robbed:
- 1) a priest who represents the religious community and was specifically not to touch the unclean;
 - 2) a descendent of Levi who would have been right behind the priest in society standing;
 - 3) a Samaritan who was a mixed race of people considered to be inferior and hated by the Jews.

Based on this information what surprises you about the men's reactions and which ones might reflect how you react to the needs of others in the world?

4. Based on Luke 10:34-35, how did the Samaritan meet the needs of the man who had been robbed?

Read the following excerpt out loud or watch message segment #2

An excerpt from the StoneBridge message, "Not Finished in All the World"

For the longest time no one took the gospel past Judea. It was a struggle, "Is this really for everyone? Does God really love the world?" For a while the early disciples nodded at it. Perhaps believed it, but no one did anything about it. So, God got involved. He tapped a man named Saul on the shoulder. "You are going to be my guy to take the good news to the Gentiles." We have got to get past these borders, past the people who think and look just like us.

Read Luke 10:1-3 and Acts 9:10-15 and answer/discuss the following questions.

5. Luke 10:1-3 tells us 70 disciples were sent to spread the good news of Jesus ahead of him. In Acts 9:10-15, we see God choosing a very unlikely character. Paul, a man well educated in the Jewish traditions who was out to destroy Jesus and his followers.
- What was different about God's plan for Paul than the 70 disciples?
6. If we believe that Jesus is the Lord of the Harvest (Luke 10:2) and that he has called us to love our neighbors (Luke 10:36-37), what implications does this have for us as individuals and for StoneBridge as a church?

Reflection and Wrap-up

7. What changes might you have to make to share the gospel and take care of believers and nonbelievers around the world?

8. As you consider the *Unfinished* campaign and the establishment of 10 churches in India, how can your group pray faithfully for these efforts?

Pray Together as a Group

Additional Study

If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about the message topic, read and consider the following passages:

- Matthew 28:16-20
- Matthew 5:13-16
- 1 John 2:2
- Romans 10:16-18