Figuring Out Benevolence

Greg Kline · Luke 10:25–37

INTRODUCTION

- The church does have an obligation, nay, even a responsibility, towards helping its members who are in need.
- But truly, the Bible picture of benevolence is greater than money being spent.
- Benevolence is defined as a desire to do good to others.

1 The Scriptures Have the Answers

Luke 10:25–28

- What is written in the law, and how do you read it?
- First of all, it reveals the scriptures have the answers.
- There is a standard that we are to answer to. We need to dig into the book.
- It wasn't enough just to identify the law. He needed to do it as well.

2 They Left the Man Half Dead

Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 7:12; Luke 10:30–32

- They did something cruel. They were selfish. They were mean. They did not love as Jesus expects us to love.
- This priest and this Levite, just like the robbers, left the man half dead.
- All too often I could easily be accused and successfully tried as being the priest or the Levite in this story.
- But no matter what the reason or what the excuse, they left the man half dead.

3 Where Is My Compassion?

Luke 10:33

- But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.
- Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the Living God, had compassion.
- Perhaps it's because we're lacking the compassion of not only the Samaritan, but Jesus, who cared for others at a high expense.
- It's not only selflessness, it's a mind that's willing to sacrifice me. My time, my money, my effort, my life.

4 Who Is My Neighbor? Everyone Is My Neighbor

Luke 10:36–37; Galatians 6:10; 1 John 3

- Who is my neighbor? Everyone is my neighbor.

- So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone. And especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- If we're to be helping the whole world, and we can't help each other, what chance do we have?
- When my brother or sister especially is in need, it is my issue to help them.
- This is not a charity case. This is a family case.

5 The Costs of Compassion

Luke 10:34–35; Matthew 25; Ephesians 5:16

- What helped him was the Samaritan converted his compassion and care into the use of money.
- When you did it to the least of these, you did it to me. We're missing opportunities, not only to serve each other, but to serve the Lord.
- Another cost of compassion, and this one's tough is time.
- And that is the greatest gift that we could give. Time.
- Because after all, it's not my time. It's the Lord's.
- But more than that, he stopped and made a difference. He cared to take effort.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **This is a man who needs help. And it's my turn to show some.**

MY NOTES