

**Sunday Sermon Review: Week of August 29th, 2021**

**Sermon Series: Parables**

**Sermon: Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)**

**Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette**

## **Icebreaker Question**

- What is the last random act of kindness that you received from someone? What made it memorable for you?

## **Session 2 Suggested Questions**

- Which character in the story are you:
  - The Robber says, “What’s yours is mine, and I’m going to take it.” You’ve used your words to hurt people and take what is not yours. You’ve lived with the attitude that what belongs to others is yours and you will take it for self-gain at all costs.
  - The Religious priest or Levite says, “What’s mine is mine, and I’m going to keep it.” You’ve been caught up in doing good and serving God that you’ve forgotten to serve the hurting and the lost. You’ve looked and worked the part, but you’ve overlooked the marginalized and, unknowingly, your attitude has shifted towards what’s mine is mine and I will keep it.
  - The Samaritan says, “What’s mine is yours, and you can have it.” You’re willing to cross over the road to help the wounded. You have come to the realization that you are God’s currency and he can use you at his pleasure. You give what’s yours to others.
- Who do you truly act neighborly to in your life?
- Who is someone you’ve told yourself that you could never love? Someone you may have made into an enemy or outsider in your life?

- Looking from the perspective of the wounded man, how do you think each encounter in his time of need affected his faith and trust? What do you think he was thinking when the Samaritan helped him?
- Share a time where you went out of your way to help someone in need. What cost did you pay to make this happen (time, money, resources, etc.), and why was it worth it?
- If you treated your enemies like your family, how would things change? How would the new charge to “go and do likewise” toward them change you?
- Take a moment and read Matthew 5:43-48. How do your actions measure up to the call Jesus has for you?
- What’s your attitude towards getting involved in mission trips, serve projects, or any other serving opportunities to help others? Do you feel qualified to do this? Why or why not?
- There will always be a cost to pay when you serve others. What cost or costs are stopping you from serving someone? What would it look like for you to fully pursue the call to love others?

## **Act On It**

**Encourage:** Just as God loves people unconditionally, we need to love people unconditionally. God knows that we have free will and that we have preferences, but when we choose to become followers of Christ, we’re called to live in a way that honors what He wants over what we want. When we choose to love God, we’re choosing to love his people, too. This isn’t meant to be easy, there will always be a cost associated with serving others. It may cost you your level of comfort to which you’ve become accustomed, your money, time out of your busy schedule, or a resource, but the reward of showing the heart of God to others is worth so much more. We live in a world filled with an abundance of needs, and God needs us to stretch and go out of our way to help them be met. Listen to where God is

calling you to serve and have faith that through His power and your obedience, you can make a difference.

**Ask:** Submit the areas where you've created preferences and barriers to serving others in your life to God in prayer. Ask Him to speak into those areas and help you renew your attitude towards serving others. Pray for The Lord to show you how you can use what He's given you to help show others the heart of God. Pray to be stretched beyond your comfort zone and to be shown who's the "neighbor" in your life that you can immediately start serving.

**Challenge:** Who is God putting on your heart right now to serve? Do it! If you see a need in your community, write out some ways that you can help, no matter how big or small. Offer to take a task off of someone's plate this week. As you're running errands, stop and ask someone how you can pray for them and do it right then and there. Is there someone in your family or friend circle that needs to feel and see the mercy of God? Ask God to show you who you need to serve, listen for the answer, and be obedient. See a need, own it, and move!

## **Prayer Request and Prayer**

Lord, thank you for showing us how to love unconditionally and giving us the example of how you want us to love the people around us. As we move on in our week, help us remember the Good Samaritan in this passage and your call to always be a good neighbor, even when it's inconvenient. Ignite our hearts with the desire to serve others. Remind us that we get the opportunity to show love to others because you first showed love to us. Open our eyes and hearts to the needs around us and move us to meet them. Remove any and all barriers that stand in the way and keep us from showing your love to others. Help us in extending love and grace to everyone we meet so we can embrace everyone you place in our paths. Help us remember that all we have belongs to you so we can steward our blessings in a way that brings you honor and glory. Fill us with your love and

empower us with your Spirit so that others can feel your grace and mercy and draw closer to you. Amen.

**Sunday Sermon Review:** Week of August 22nd, 2021

**Sermon Series:** Parables

**Sermon:** Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

**Speaker:** Pastor Mike Burnette

### **Icebreaker Question**

- Have you ever lost or misplaced something that was super important to you? How did you react? When you found it, how did you feel?

## Session 1 Suggested Questions

- Which character in the story do you relate to more:
  - Are you like the younger brother - spoiled, taking for granted the blessings of God?
  - Are you like the older brother - envious of others getting blessed, and feeling like you have to earn God's grace?
  - Do you have the heart of the loving father - compassionate, kind, and quick to forgive - seeking those who are far from the family?
- Describe a time when you asked for something before you "deserved" it and later regretted it.
- If you were the prodigal son at a point in your life, how did you return back to God?
- Have you ever gotten jealous because someone got something that you wanted or was treated better than you? How do we turn our thoughts and feelings around so that we can celebrate instead of being jealous?
- What mistakes in your life do you believe are unforgivable? What makes you believe that God would not forgive you for this?
- What was your life like living without God compared to living with God?
- How have you tried to earn your way to God? How have you tried to earn your way to a comfortable life?
- What does true repentance look like to you? What is keeping you from truly repenting and running back to God?

## Act On It

**Encourage:** Despite what's happened in our past, God is willing to forgive and restore us. When we're ready to come back home, He's ready to welcome us with open arms and a party. If God can forgive like that, why can't we? As followers of Christ, the same heart our Loving Father has for us - a heart of forgiveness, grace, and compassion - we get to extend to others. And we don't have to work for it! God loves us so much, we don't have to be perfect and we don't have to figure it all out before we receive His gift of eternal living. Be encouraged to move out of the mindset that we have to earn our gifts from God and move into building a relationship with Him. The ultimate sacrifice has been made on our behalf. Celebrate the blessings you have received by sharing it with others. Let's be willing to yearn for those far from Christ just like God yearns from us when we're away.

**Ask:** Ask God to show you which character in the story that you're resembling right now. Pray and repent for the things from God that you have taken for granted. Pray to be released from religious routines so you can experience the freedom in living a life with God instead of feeling like you have to earn your way. Pray for peace and comfort in knowing God loves you no matter what, and ask God to give you that same heart so you can extend that same grace and forgiveness to others. Finally, pray for eyes to see those who are far from Christ and for God to use you to pursue them and welcome them home.

**Challenge:** Think of people in your life who need to know that God loves them and is waiting to welcome them into His presence with open arms and a celebration! Connect with them for coffee or a meal this week so you can give them this good news!

## Prayer Request

Lord, we're so thankful that you have no limits. There is no distance that we could go where your love can't reach us. Through your love and by taking our place on the cross, you came and set us free from the things that separate us from you. Thank you for waiting, with open arms, for those who are lost to welcome them home. Lord, we repent and ask your forgiveness for the times where we were blind to your love and sought ways outside of what you desire for us. We repent for the times where we thought that we had to work to be in your presence and completely missed your heart to be in relationship with us. Thank you for never giving up on us. Remind us of your love, grace, and forgiveness so we can share it with others who are far from you. Give us a heart that yearns for the lost. Remove any obstacles currently in our lives that keeps us from sharing your good news with others. Place us where you can use us to help bring others home to you. Thank you for your goodness and your love. Amen.