**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Be a Good Friend |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Luke 10:25-37 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2004 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Perhaps one of the best-loved parables that the Lord Jesus ever gave was the parable of the Good Samaritan.
   2. Luke 10:25-37
      1. In verse 25, the word “tempted” means “tested.”
      2. The question the lawyer asked was not a sincere question.
         1. This was a question from an insincere lawyer who was testing Jesus.
      3. Verse 29 tells us that the lawyer was trying to justify himself.
   3. In understanding this story, we are going to have to understand the background and the setting.
      1. The man who came to Jesus was a self-righteous man with a dishonest question.
         1. He wanted to justify himself.
         2. The Bible says that he was tempting or testing Jesus.
         3. If we come to Jesus with an honest question, then we will always get an honest answer.
         4. If we come to Jesus with a dishonest question, then Jesus will not answer that question.
            1. Jesus always answered a dishonest question with another question.
      2. Jesus turned the question back on the lawyer.
         1. Luke 10:26-27
         2. The lawyer had a good question: “What must I do?”
            1. Luke 10:25
         3. Jesus asked him what the law said.
            1. Evidently, this man had studied the Bible.

He knew the Bible, and he had analyzed the Bible.

* + - * 1. His answer to Jesus’ question came from Deuteronomy and Leviticus.
    1. The lawyer had religion, but he did not have life.
       1. He was religious but lost.
    2. The Lord Jesus began to deal with this man because, not only was he a smart lawyer, but he was also a dishonest lawyer.
       1. The man was looking for a loophole in the law.
          1. Luke 10:29
    3. This man had a creed, but he did not have salvation.
       1. He knew something about the law of God, but he had no real life in his heart.
    4. He had no issue about loving God with all his heart.
    5. But then Jesus said that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves.
       1. The lawyer asked, “Who is my neighbor?”
          1. Luke 10:29
       2. The man had no difficulty loving God because as far as he was concerned, God was nowhere around; but people were all over.
          1. He did not want to love anyone whom he did not have to love.
          2. He could love God abstractly, but people were all around him.
          3. He had to get this so-called religion of his out of the ethereal and down into the real life in which he was living.
  1. 1 John 4:20
     1. If a person’s heart is headquarters for hate, then he does not love God.
  2. This man, a shrewd lawyer but a man with a wicked heart, was looking for an alibi and somewhere that he could draw the line.
     1. He wanted to just simply get by.
  3. In today’s message, we will discuss how we can be a good friend based upon the example of the Good Samaritan.

1. criminal inhumanity
   1. Luke 10:30
      1. A man was going from Jerusalem, the city of God, down to Jericho, which was a pagan city.
         1. He was going from the holy city to the hellish city.
         2. He is a picture of humanity going away from God.
            1. He was going from the heights to the depths.
      2. As this man was going from Jerusalem to Jericho, he fell among thieves.
         1. They beat him, stoned him, stripped the clothes from him, took all of his wealth, and left him “half dead.”
            1. The words “half dead” mean that he was on his way to complete death.
         2. He is a picture of humanity going away from God, battered and robbed by the devil.
   2. What does this have to do with us today?
      1. We live among people who are going from Jerusalem to Jericho.
         1. They are on their way away from God, and they have been beaten and robbed by Satan.
            1. There are those who are wounded domestically in broken homes.
            2. Many are wounded emotionally.

More and more young people are the victims of abuse.

* + - * 1. Many are wounded physically.

Many have an addiction to drugs and alcohol.

* + - * 1. There are those who are wounded economically.

Many are hungry and in poverty.

* + - * 1. Many are wounded spiritually.

They are caught up in cults, humanism, or liberal religion.

* + 1. Ours is a hurting world.
       1. Hurting people are all around us.
       2. Hearts are crushed, bruised, bleeding, and broken.
       3. There are people who need love.
  1. This is what Satan has done for us.

1. casual indifference
   1. Luke 10:31-32
      1. The priest and the Levite saw him and passed by.
         1. The priest was the one who performed the religious rituals of that day.
         2. The Levites were the ones who were the custodians of the law.
      2. The priest and the Levite represent religion.
         1. The priest represents religion with its rituals.
         2. The Levite represents religion with its rules.
   2. Jesus was talking to a self-righteous man; the lawyer.
      1. This man did not want to love anyone whom he did not have to love.
      2. He was religious, but he did not have a spiritual life.
   3. Jesus came to save men from sin and from religion, and the second is sometimes harder to do than the first.
      1. The man in this parable had religion without Christ.
      2. Religion will make a person a bigot, cruel, and self-righteous if that person does not have the Lord Jesus Christ.
   4. The apostle Paul, before he was saved and met the Lord Jesus Christ, was a religious man.
      1. Philippians 3:5
         1. In this passage, Paul described his life before Christ.
            1. He had a pedigree of no mean repute.

He had the right birth, the right education, and the right attainment.

* + 1. Philippians 3:6
       1. Not only did he have the pedigree, but he also had the works to back it up.
    2. Philippians 3:7-8
       1. The things, his birth, education, and zeal, that Paul had put on the positive side of the ledger, he now had to put on the negative side of the ledger.
          1. He counted them as refuse.
  1. There are many today who are lost in religion.
     1. The devil had just as soon send someone to Hell from the church pew as from the gutter.
     2. If religion can save us, then which religion is right?
        1. Is it Christendom, Mohammedanism, Buddhism, Catholicism?
           1. None of them.
           2. Only Jesus can save.

No one is going to Heaven without the Lord Jesus.

* 1. The priest, who represented religion with its rituals, passed by the man and left him wounded, bleeding, and dying.
     1. Luke 10:31
     2. Jesus is teaching that religion with its rituals cannot save.
  2. The Levite, who was a custodian of the law, came and looked at the man.
     1. Luke 10:32
     2. He studied him, and then he left him.
        1. The law can describe us, the law can study us, the law can condemn us, but the law cannot save us.
           1. Galatians 3:10
  3. In this parable, Jesus spoke of religion with its rituals and rules.
     1. Our neighbors need something more than that.
        1. They need compassion.
        2. They need Jesus.
        3. They need a friend.
        4. There are people who are bruised, battered, beaten, weakened, robbed, and dying.
        5. We come to church on Sunday morning, sing our songs, and think we have done God a favor.
           1. Many church members are just like the person that Jesus is describing.
  4. What was wrong with both of these men?
     1. Their problem was not primarily gross iniquity but gross indifference.
        1. Rather than being a part of the solution, they became a part of the problem.
        2. They were not the ones who beat or robbed the man.
           1. It is not that they did something, but that they did nothing.
           2. They simply passed him by.
     2. The sin of omission is greater than the sin of commission.
     3. A church service on television is not a substitute for actual church attendance.
        1. Hebrews 10:25
        2. When we stay away from church, it is a vote to close the doors of the church.
        3. All we have to do is simply nothing.
  5. Matthew 12:30
     1. Many in the church are passing by those who have needs and hurts.

1. compassionate involvement (luke 10:33-35)
   1. The Good Samaritan, who ministered to this man, is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
   2. The Samaritans were a despised race.
      1. They were Jews who were left behind after Israel was carried away into captivity.
      2. They intermarried with the heathen around them.
      3. They had some of their own religion and other foolish ideas.
      4. Many of them were living in poverty.
      5. The Bible says that the Jews of that day had no dealings with the Samaritans.
         1. John 4:9
         2. To be a friend to a Samaritan was an unthinkable thing.
   3. Jesus talked about a Samaritan, and he called that Samaritan the “Good Samaritan.”
      1. Luke 10:33-35
         1. This is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
         2. Jesus was telling this man what he needed to be like.
   4. The Good Samaritan pictured as Jesus Christ:
      1. Jesus has genuine compassion.
         1. It is not false compassion, but it is genuine compassion.
         2. Luke 10:33
            1. This was not mere sentimentality.
         3. Our English word “compassion” comes from two words:
            1. “Com” meaning “with.”
            2. “Passion” which means “to feel deeply.”
         4. A person who has compassion sees people through the eyes of Christ.
         5. Compassion means “with suffering,” “with feeling.”
         6. The Bible says that the Good Samaritan saw him.
            1. The problem with so many of us is that we just do not see.

We are so busy that we pay no attention.

People who need Jesus are everywhere.

* + 1. Jesus has gracious compassion.
       1. Luke 10:33-34
          1. The Good Samaritan went to where the man was and ministered to him as he was.

This is what we need to do.

We do not have to wait until they come to us; we go to them.

* + 1. Jesus has gentle compassion.
       1. Luke 10:34
          1. In the Bible, oil is an emblem and symbol of the Holy Spirit, and wine is an emblem and a symbol of the blood of Jesus Christ.

The oil was to soothe.

The wine was to cleanse.

* + - 1. The Good Samaritan bound up this broken man and bound up his broken spirit.
      2. The Good Samaritan set this man upon his own beast and brought him to the inn.
         1. He had to bring him.
         2. The man could not come of himself.
      3. Before the Good Samaritan met this man, he himself was riding.
         1. This man had nothing to ride on.
      4. After the Good Samaritan met this man, the Good Samaritan was walking and the man was riding.
         1. That is the substitutionary ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He allows us to take His place.

He is the One who takes our place.

He is the One who comes to us where we are.

He is the One who is moved with compassion.

He is the One who pours in the oil and wine.

He is the One who puts us upon His beast.

He is the One who brings us on where we need to go.

* + 1. This is what we need to practice.
       1. It is what being a friend is all about.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Coming to church is not enough.
      1. The priest and the Levite were religious.
      2. The lawyer wanted to justify himself and did not want to love anyone he did not have to love.
   2. If you do not know the Lord Jesus, then you are one of the walking wounded who has been robbed by Satan.
   3. Today, Jesus is still the Good Samaritan.
      1. Jesus loves you, and He will save you.
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16