

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Glynde Lutheran Church**

**Sermon on Luke 10:25 – 37**

**Theme: “What am I going to do with the rest of my life?**

**“Make a difference for God”**

**\* The Big Questions of life” (4)**

---

### ***Introduction:***

We are continuing a series on “The Big Questions of life”. This week's question is: **“What am I going to do with the rest of my life?”**

This question is of particular relevance for me, *given I'm going to retire at the end of the year.... And given the fact that I probably don't have that many years left in my life....*

But I think that this question is of vital importance to each one of us, *regardless of our age.* “How does God want me to live my life?” “What sort of priorities does God want me to have in my life?” “What does God want me to spend my time and my energy doing?”

These are all questions that are important ones for our life, and the way that we live our life. And I think that they are all summed up by the question which is the theme for today: “What am I going to do with the rest of my life?”

I'd like to suggest to you that there are three things that God wants you to do with the rest of your life:

- \* **To grow in Christ-likeness**
- \* **To spent time encouraging one another in our walk with Jesus, no matter how old or young they are**
- \* **To share the Good News with others**

Let's think briefly about each of these things that God wants you and me as His forgiven children to do with the rest of our life. And I want us to do this as we think a little about Jesus parable of the Good Samaritan....

## **Part 1: To grow in Christ-likeness**

Jesus calls us to follow him and to be like him: to be loving, compassionate, and caring (*Mark 8:34; cf. Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; cf. John Stott, The Radical Disciple, p. 32-41*).

There are two things in Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan that remind us of this:

- \* **The “compassion” of the Samaritan for the man who was beaten up, and what he did for the man out of “compassion” for him** (*Luke 10:33-35*)
- \* **Jesus' command to the Lawyer at the end of his parable, “You go, then, and do likewise”** (*Luke 10:36-37*).

Firstly, the “compassion” of the Samaritan to the man who was beaten up.... I love the word “compassion”. Jesus uses this word to describe how God feels about us (*Matt. 18:27*). Also, it's a word that the Gospel writers use to describe how Jesus felt with regard to the plight of others (*e.g., Mark 1:40-41*).

And secondly, Jesus commands the Lawyer to “go and do likewise”. Jesus commands us, too, to go out and be like the Good Samaritan: people who allow themselves to be moved to compassion for the plight of others, *a compassion that shows itself in action for people, just like Samaritan who used his time, his energy, and his money in service of the man beaten up.*

That's how I want to live out my life....

And that's how God wants us to live out your life: making a difference in this world by loving the people around us, *just like Jesus did!*

So that's the first thing that God calls us to, as we follow Jesus: to be more and more like Jesus, *to grow in our Christ-likeness.*

“Time for Reflection” questions (1)

- \* **Who do you admire in Jesus' parable of The Good Samaritan? Why?**
- \* **How is the Good Samaritan an example of how God wants us to live?**

## **Part 2: To encourage one another**

I've always loved that passage in the letter to the Hebrews where the writer says:

**<sup>24</sup> Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. <sup>25</sup> Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer (Heb. 10:24-25).**

We need one another! It isn't always easy living our life trusting in Jesus as our Saviour, and following him in a life of active compassion, a *compassion that shows itself in love for all those around us....*

We need to encourage one another, and upbuilt one another, *especially if we are going through the hard struggles of life.*

You know, one of the most used phrases in the New Testament is "one another". Someone has counted up how many times the phrase is used: and it's 59 times that the phrase is used.

Remember some of them:

- \* **"Love one another"**
  - \* **"Carry one another's burdens"**
  - \* **"Pray for one another"**
  - \* **"Build one another up"**
  - \* **"Be kind and compassion to one another"**
  - \* **"Forgive one another"**
- And so on....**

That's how I want to live out my life.... I want to live out my life, encouraging you, *my brothers and sisters in God's family*: encouraging you to go on trusting in Jesus as your Saviour, and to go on following him, *no matter what!*

And that's how God wants each of us as His forgiven children to live out our life: continually encouraging one another and supporting one another.

So that's the second thing that God calls us to, as we follow Jesus: to encourage one another.

"Time for Reflection" questions (2)

- \* **Do you like to be encouraged? Who encourages you?**
  
- \* **Who are you encouraging in their faith and love?**

### **Part 3: To share the Good News**

I want to live out my life sharing the Good News of Jesus with whoever will listen....

After all this what Jesus commanded his disciples to do, *and what he wants you and me to do.* Jesus wants you and me to lead people to know the love and forgiveness of God.

Remember what Jesus said to his disciples:

**<sup>18</sup> Jesus drew near and said to them, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.”**

And Peter tells us:

**Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, <sup>16</sup> and do it with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15-16).**

You know, that's what I think Jesus is doing here when he tells his parable of the Good Samaritan to a Lawyer who is wondering about what he “must do to receive eternal life”: he is sharing the Good News *with gentleness and respect.*

Remember what happened? Let's listen again to what Luke tells us:

**<sup>25</sup> A teacher of the Law came up and tried to trap Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to receive eternal life?”**

**<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered him, “What do the Scriptures say? How do you interpret them?”**

**<sup>27</sup> The man answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind’; and ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’”**

**<sup>28</sup> “You are right,” Jesus replied; “do this and you will live.”**

**<sup>29</sup> But the teacher of the Law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbour?”**

And so Jesus tells him a story: the parable of the Good Samaritan. It's a gentle way of trying to get the Lawyer to realise that he can't even "love his neighbour" all the time with his time, and his energy, and his money.

Remember how it all finishes: Jesus asked the lawyer: **"In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbour towards the man attacked by the robbers?"**

The man replied: **"The one who was kind to him"**.

He can't bring himself to say, "The Samaritan", so he says it in 'a round about way'. Luke tells us that Jesus then said to him:

**"You, go, then and do the same"** (Luke 10:36-37).

I imagine that lawyer heading off, and stopping and thinking to himself: **"No, I can't love like this all the time! I can't possible earn my way into eternal life!!"**

So Jesus told this story, I think, to try and get this rather smug, self-righteous lawyer to a point where he was willing to hear the good news: that God is willing to forgive us, and that he does forgive us when we cry out to him for mercy (Luke 18:13).

Note that Jesus relates to his man "with gentleness and respect".... And this is how I think that God wants us to share the Good News with others: in a gentle way, *gradually getting them to realise that they can't earn their way into "heaven", and that forgiveness and eternal life are a free gift from the God who loves us.*

Or more generally, *in a gentle way*, to get our friends and others to realise that there is a God, that He passionately loves us, and that He wants each of us to live in a child-Father relationship with him as His forgiven children.

"Time for Reflection" questions (3)

- \* **Have you got family members, or friends, who don't know the Good News of Jesus?**
  
- \* **What are you doing to lead them gently to a relationship with God through Jesus?**

## **Conclusion:**

So, what am you going to do with the rest of your life?" "What sort of priorities do you think that God want you and me to have in our life, *however long we have left?*"

I think that there are three main things that God wants you and me to do with the rest of our life:

- \* **To grow in Christ-likeness, to grow to be more and more like Jesus as we follow him in a life of loving care of those around us.**
- \* **To spent time encouraging one another in our walk with Jesus**
- \* **To share the Good News with others, those who don't yet know the love and the forgiveness of God.**

Well, that what I intend to do with the rest of my life, *however long or short it may be.*

And as I said, this is what I think, *no I know*, God wants each of us who know Jesus as our Saviour to do with the rest of our life 😊