

**Be good stewards of God's grace – Bible Study (II)**  
**Loving your neighbor**  
**Matthew 7:12, Luke 10:25-37, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

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**Introduction**

One of the biggest stewardships in our life is the stewardship of our relationships with others. In fact, the second half of what is commonly known as the Great Commandment is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself!" So the stewardship of loving others is not an option, but a command from Almighty God that must be obeyed. But how?

**Notes on Texts:**

***Matthew 7:12 – Golden Rule***

Context :

- This verse is commonly referred to as "the Golden rule", and it appears at almost the end of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).
- "In everything, treat others as you would want them to treat you..." The verse emphasis "everything" and the verb is in present tense which implying the way a believer treating others in relationship should be involved of "unlimited scope" and "persistence".
- "...this is the Law and the Prophets."
  - This phrase points back to Matthew 5:17-18, where Jesus states that the Law and the Prophets will not be abolished until they are accomplished.
  - Jesus is stating that treating others the way that you would like to be treated actually fulfills the Law and the Prophets, the teaching of the Old Testament as it relates to the way that we treat one another.

***Luke 10:25-27 – The Great Commandment & the Parable of the Good Samaritan***

Context:

- The parable of the Good Samaritan is Jesus' response to a lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbor?" The lawyer came to Jesus to test Jesus (v.25) and to justify his answer is right (v.29), in order to find evidence to prove Jesus' teaching is wrong.
- There is an assumption behind the question "who is my neighbor?", the question is assuming there are non-neighbors, the lawyer's intention was

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to ask Jesus to minimize his obligations. The Jews interpreted the word “neighbor” in a limited sense that they only mean to a fellow Israelites or with the one in the same religious community.

- Samaritans:
  - Descendants of the Jews of the Northern Kingdom who were left behind by the Assyrians who took most of the inhabitants into captivity. This remnant intermarried with the Gentile colonists whom the Assyrians brought into the region (Jews were forbidden to intermarry). These Samaritans vigorously opposed the return of the Jews of the Southern Kingdom and their attempts to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple, which stirred up a great deal of enmity. The Samaritans also worshipped on Mt. Gerizim (in Samaria) rather than in Jerusalem, which the Jews of the Southern Kingdom condemned.

Summary of the text

- The Great Commandment:
  - Love God with all you are
  - Love your neighbor as yourself
- Parable of the Good Samaritan:
  - We are neighbors who fulfill the Great Commandment when we show mercy to those who are in need.

***2 Thessalonians 3:6-15***

Context

The false teaching concerning the day of the Lord had led to some believers had inappropriate behavior; some of those refuse to work for their living and thus become dependent on the labor of others. This passage is the instruction of Paul to Thessalonians to deal with the lazy Christians in their midst.

Summary of the text

- Be busy.
- Avoid the idle.
- Love sometimes means not meeting someone's physical/financial needs.

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**Bible study questions**  
**(read the passages in your group before discussing the questions) :**

***Matthew 7:12 – The Golden Rule***

1. What is the main emphasis of this verse?
2. What is the extent of this command?
3. What does that mean – that we should treat others with love – we should treat everyone with love.
4. How do you want to be treated? List qualities:
5. How true it is to you that “you can treat others as you would want them to treat you”? What are the obstacles that hinder you to obey this command?
6. Please choose one obstacle you share in question no. 5, and list out some practical steps to remove it at next two weeks, and what do you want the small group members help you in this process (in prayers, confrontation, take accountability etc)?

***Luke 10:25-37 – The Great Commandment & the Parable of the Good Samaritan***

1. What started Jesus' teaching of the Great Commandment and the Parable of the Good Samaritan?
2. How does the lawyer answer Jesus' question about what the Law teaches regarding how to obtain eternal life?
3. What are the two parts of the Great Commandment?
4. How does the second part of the Great Commandment relate to the Golden Rule?
5. What is Jesus' response to the lawyer's declaration of the Great Commandment?
6. What question does the lawyer ask? How this question can help him to justify himself?
7. Why didn't Jesus mention the injured man's nationality? How did this help him to build up His argument?
8. How did the Samaritan demonstrate that he was a neighbor?
9. So, how can we be a neighbor? Who, then, is our neighbor?
10. According to this parable's teaching, can you label a person in your daily life (at your neighborhood, in your small group, at church or at work)? How would you show your love to this person at next two weeks?

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***2 Thessalonians 3:6-13***

1. Is love always demonstrated by meeting the physical needs of others?
2. When should we not meet someone else's physical needs? Why?
3. What should we do for those people?
4. How can we know if someone is not willing to work vs unable to work?
5. Is it better to err on the side of compassion or on the side of judgment? Why?

***Conclusion :***

What have we seen in Scripture today/tonight?

- The Golden Rule : Treat others how you want to be treated.
- The Great Commandment : Love God and love neighbors.
- Parable of the Good Samaritan : Show practical compassion to those who are in physical need.
- Warning against idleness: Don't help those who are purposefully idle/lazy/refuse to work.

What is one thing that you sense God is wanting you to do these two week in response to this study?