



# Why Do We Love the Lost?

Mark 10:17-22

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- “Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? 18 So Jesus said to him, Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 19 You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and your mother. 20 And he answered and said to Him, Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth. 21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me. 22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

# Why Do We Love the Lost?

- God loves the lost and desires their salvation
  - 1Tim. 2:3-4 - “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
- Why should those who profess to be the children of God love those who are not the children of God?

# All Human Beings Are Made In The Image Of God

- Gen. 1:26-27 - “Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

# All Human Beings Are Made In The Image Of God

- After Adam and Eve sinned, God still said humankind was in His image
  - Gen. 9:6 - “Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.”

# All Human Beings Are Made In The Image Of God

- Jesus taught that every soul is beyond value
  - Mark 8:36-37 - “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

# All Human Beings Are Our Neighbors

- Love them for their own sake
  - Matt. 22:36-40 - “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said to him, You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

# All People Who Die Lost Will Suffer

- Regardless of the circumstances of our lives, everyone sins
  - Rom. 3:10, 23 - “As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one... 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
- All sinners perish, but salvation is available to all sinners
  - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

# All People Who Die Lost Will Suffer

- This bothered the apostle Paul, who did something about it
  - 2Tim. 2:10 - “Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

# All People Who Die Lost Will Suffer

- The destination of the lost is not a fate a caring human being would ever wish for another human being
  - 2Thes. 1:7-9 - “And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”
- We must love the presently lost because they will become the eternally lost if we don't.

# God Loves The Lost

- God wants everyone on the earth to live with Him in heaven
  - 2Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
  - 1Tim. 2:3-4 - “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
  - Ez. 18:23 - “Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? says the Lord GOD, and not that he should turn from his ways and live?”

# God Loves The Lost

- However, there are two factors that can prevent this from happening:
- The lost have to want to be saved. God will not save someone against his own will
  - Rom. 10:18-21 - “But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world... 21 But to Israel he says: All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.”

# God Loves The Lost

- The saved have to bring the gospel to the lost.
  - Rom. 10:13-17 - “For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things! ... 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

# Jesus Loves The Lost

- Mark 10:17-22
- Jesus didn't debate the young man's assertions, or criticize his efforts, or tell him about his flawed reasoning; He loved him and told him what he needed to know to be saved

# Jesus Loves The Lost

- Luke 13:34 - “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!”
- Luke 19:41 - “Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it”
- What do we feel when we see the lost?

# The Apostles Loved The Lost

- Rom. 9:1-3 - “I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh”
- 2Cor. 5:14, 20 - “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died... 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.”

# The Gospel Of Grace Demands Our Love For The Lost

- Rom. 1:14-16 - “I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. 15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”
- 1Cor. 9:16-17 - “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.”

# The Gospel Of Grace Demands Our Love For The Lost

- We have the same stewardship
  - Mark 16:15 - “And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
  - Acts 4:18-20 - “And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

# The Gospel Of Grace Demands Our Love For The Lost

- Phil. 2:1-4 - “Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

# We Were Once Lost

- And someone loved us enough to teach us of salvation. It is personal to us.
- So put a name on the lost. Make it personal.
- Luke 15:10 - “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”