

# A Caring Church

## Luke 10:25-37

### Luke 10:25-37 (NASB)

<sup>25</sup> “And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?”

<sup>27</sup> And he answered, “**YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**”

<sup>28</sup> And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; **DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE.**”

<sup>29</sup> But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.”

<sup>31</sup> “And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.”

<sup>32</sup> “Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.”

<sup>33</sup> “But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,

<sup>34</sup> and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on *them*; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.”

<sup>35</sup> “On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.’

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' *hands*?”

<sup>37</sup> And he said, “The one who showed mercy toward him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.”

Do you realize that for believers, many types of needs should be met without going outside the church? We are meant to be a self-sustaining body. After several decades in ministry, I have seen only one way for the church to function as it should: Christians must commit to give of themselves on behalf of others.

For example, a man determines to pray and struggle alongside a hurting brother until a burdensome situation is resolved or peace returns. Or a woman makes herself available to answer a new Christian's questions about the weekly sermon—the two ladies search the Bible and fill their minds with Scripture. And there are countless other ways to serve, such as driving an elderly member to the service, teaching a Sunday school class, or visiting a weary single mom and listening to her concerns.

Before you become overwhelmed by the variety of needs in your church, let me remind you that loving each other is meant to be a body-wide effort. One person cannot meet every need. But

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suppose you commit to serving a small group of folks whom God brings into your sphere of influence. If, in order to care for them, you surrender self-focused preferences about resources and time, the Lord will bless you with more joy and contentment than you've ever known.

To serve others before serving yourself is to practice authentic Christianity. I'm certain that if believers commit to meeting as many needs as the Lord brings to their attention, then a lethargic church can be transformed, becoming a true body of believers who function together for the glory of God.