

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the small group study of *Unstoppable Gospel* these sermon outlines will use different Scripture passages related to the small group study theme, so the pastor can reinforce the study from the pulpit.

**Introduction:** Jesus consistently had people ask Him questions. I can understand that. Wouldn't you ask questions if you had someone around you that spoke with the kind of authority that Jesus did? Normally, a question is an attempt to find an answer. But sometimes, it is an attempt to question authority. A lawyer came to Jesus with a question. The question was legitimate. The questioner was not. I doubt he liked the answer that he eventually received, but his question gave the opportunity for Jesus to communicate the great answer to all of humanity's questions – love God and love people. These two are knotted together. You cannot have one without having the other.

**1. Our love for others flows out of our love for God (v. 25-28).**

- a. Law makes it illegal and immoral not to love – “*love the LORD...thy neighbor*” (v. 27)

Someone has said that you can't legislate morality. You can't make people be good by simply requiring goodness from them. That is certainly true when it comes to love. You can't make people love simply because you require it from them. And yet, Jesus reminded this lawyer on that day that the law required people to love God and their neighbor. The lawyer made it clear that he didn't love either one. By testing Jesus, he showed that he did not love Jesus, and by questioning who his neighbor was, he showed that he had no desire to love people.

- b. Life is impossible without love – “*this do, and thou shalt live*” (v. 28)

Normally, a lawyer is someone who thinks in very logical terms. This is what the law says, and here's how you apply it in this situation. On this day, he must have been blinded by the bright sun or by his attempt to blind the Son because he dealt with his own question in a very illogical way. He wanted to know what he had to do to get eternal life. But in the process, he was trying to negate the necessity of loving his fellow man with whom he planned on spending eternity. Who would want to live in eternity if you had to do so without love and people to pour it out on? Jesus agreed with his statement that those who are destined for eternity love God and love people. That's what characterizes them. But Jesus took it further. Notice that He said, “Do this, and you will *live*” not “live *eternally*” which was the guy's original question. Jesus was saying that he could live now – not just exist – if he loved people. Real life – now or in eternity – is impossible without this expression of love.

**2. Our love for others requires us to respond to their pain (v. 29-33).**

- a. Some inflict pain on others – “*thieves*” (v. 30)  
The road that this man traveled on was a road that was frequented by thieves. They cared not how much pain they needed to inflict on others so long as doing so would help to alleviate some of their own pain. “If hurting you will help me, then it is a price I am willing to pay.” That is love of self, but it is NOT loving your neighbor. Love sacrifices *my* good for *your* gain, not the other way around.
- b. Some ignore pain in others – “*passed by on the other side*” (v. 31,32)  
The second group that encountered this man did no harm to him, but they also did no help. They could see that he was in need of help, but they had somewhere to get to. They were on that road to Jericho for a reason. So they passed by on the other side. And the “they” here is the religious crowd – those who claim to love God. The Bible says that if we refuse to help someone in need when we have the resources to do so, we don’t love them, and we bring into question our love for God too (1 Jn. 3:17). Love sets us apart from religion and shows that we are genuine.
- c. Some ingest the pain of others – “*compassion on him*” (v. 33)  
One man was different. The one you would least expect to show love had compassion on the needs of the man beside the road. He felt the hurt of the other person. Maybe he had been in a situation where he needed someone’s help only to have others refuse or ignore him. He decided he was going to do differently. Feeling the needs of others and making their hurt our own causes us to respond in love and do what we can to meet those needs.

### 3. **Our love for others leads us to involve ourselves in their lives (v. 34-37).**

- a. Even when it causes physical sacrifice – “*went to him*” (v. 34)  
It was certain that the hurt man was in this position because of the actions of others. What was not certain was whether or not those others were gone. The Samaritan might have been walking into a trap. But he was willing to put himself in danger for the sake of a Jewish stranger. Further, he who had been riding was now walking. It’s called sweat equity – being willing to get dirty for the benefit of another.
- b. Even when it causes financial sacrifice – “*I will repay*” (v. 35)  
Like everyone that was on the road that day, the Samaritan had a reason for being there. Maybe he was headed home to his family or to make a business deal. Being late might have cost him. The resources that he used to deal with the man’s injuries and the promised payment to the innkeeper cost him as well. Maybe it wasn’t much to this man; maybe it was everything he had. We don’t know. But we know that it was a sacrifice. Notice that he gave himself before he gave his money. Some give their money but not themselves. Others don’t give their money because they have never given themselves. He gave both.
- c. Even when it causes emotional sacrifice – “*Go, and do*” (v. 36-37)  
The most needy person in this whole encounter was not the one who was robbed or the Samaritan – it was the lawyer. The most costly thing for anyone to do is to admit that their vision of themselves and their assessment of other people is inaccurate. He was forced to do both. Jesus compared him to a Samaritan of all people and showed him that as little as he thought of a Samaritan, the Samaritan was the one who was willing to help. And as much as he thought of himself, he wouldn’t have been willing to do what the

Samaritan in the story did. Loving people is not dependent on who they are; it's dependent on who we are or maybe on who we are willing to be.

**Conclusion:** My wife has been in the Christian school environment her whole teaching career. Next year, she will be in a public school. She's nervous about the restrictions that will be put on her concerning her relationship with Jesus. How will she be able to communicate Jesus without being able to freely express the way that she feels about Him? God has given us another language through which we can communicate Him even in situations where we cannot speak His name – it's the language of love, the language of meeting needs in the lives of others. It is when we love that we show Jesus to people. It is love that prompts questions and draws other people to us so that we can point them to Jesus and tell them about Him. My wife loves loving on her students and their families. I think my wife is going to do just fine.

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