

MONDAY 3.28.22 – LUKE 10:30-37

As we go through life, we encounter situations that put us face-to-face with people in need. They need food, water, warm clothing, or a place to get warm. A door opened or help lifting something. Maybe financial support or emotional support. Many examples come to mind. But do we have the time and resources to help? Surely, someone more capable than us will help these people, right? Our reaction to these situations tells us a great deal about our relationship with God and His greatest commandment. "On the parable of the Good Samaritan: I imagine that the first question the priest and Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But by the very nature of his concern, the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'" - Martin Luther King Jr., Strength to Love

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 3.29.22 – ROMANS 12:9-13

We are to love genuinely. Love isn't meant to be fake or to be made up. Love must be sincere. We can sincerely love others by clinging to what is good, honoring one another, serving God, and being faithful in prayer. These are all things Paul tells us we can do—today. It doesn't matter where you are spiritually or how old you are or what your past has looked like. **We all have the ability to love like He does.**

I loved reading this passage because it has no exceptions. No one is disqualified of our love (just like we aren't the exception of His love). So even that guy who cut you off on Rt. 11— love him. Even that lady in your neighborhood who is always rude and condescending – love her. The people who look, think, act and believe nothing like us – let's love them!

Paul never said it would be easy all the time, but we are instructed to live a lifestyle of love and we can get the perfect illustration of that by seeing how Jesus loved.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 3.30.22 – ACTS 4:1-22

Just months before the events in Acts 4, Peter denied any association with Jesus and all of the disciples had been in hiding. Now, in what seems to be a blatant disregard for their personal safety, Peter and John begin to boldly speak the name of Jesus and confront those who ordered Jesus' crucifixion (and they even rejoice when they suffer for it [see Acts 5:41]). These fishermen stood confidently and spoke truth to the religious, political, and intellectually elite of their day. This dramatic turnaround was noted by those who listened: (see v. 13).

For anyone feeling unqualified, unprepared, or in over their head, this chapter offers hope. God will always do more through you than expected. It is not education, wealth, position, or political influence that makes us competent or qualified to do great things for God. Rather, it is time spent with Jesus that makes us ready for His purposes. Spend time connecting with Jesus every day instead of worrying about the task ahead. God will make you ready for all He wants to do through you as long as you seek Him!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 3.31.22 – ISAIAH 43:1-3

God's people will face trials, but we have the promises of God's presence and salvation. I can hardly think of more beautiful words in all of the OT from God to His people. And these truths are realities that God has spoken to us, to all who have trusted in Christ.

So I want you to just let these words fall on your heart, to hear God saying to you, "fear not, I have redeemed you. I have saved you from your sin. You are My child.

Let this soak in, the God of the universe has called your name. He says, "you are Mine", you belong to Him. What an amazing thought. In my life today I belong to God, you belong to God.

Now, God's not saying that as His people, His sons and daughters, that everything is going to be easy. He talks about passing through waters. He says when you walk through fire, not *if* you walk through fire. Things are not always going to go well for you. Nowhere in Scripture do we read that when we trust in God we won't experience trials... we *WILL* experience trials. But the beauty is, the God who redeemed us - the God who called our name - the God to whom we belong - He will be with us and He will bring us through.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 4.1.22 – PSALM 63

David wrote when he was in a literal desert, driven there by the betrayal of his son Absalom. Despite the pain of physical thirst and lost love, David knows that his deepest longings are for God (verse 1)—they can be met only by God's presence and by experiencing His love, which is better than good circumstances and even than life itself (verse 3). This spiritual thirst, unrecognized as such in nonbelievers (John 4:7-21), is in all of us. Beholding God's power and glory and worship should be our first care, not only because it is right but also because only a relationship with God lasts "as long as [we] live" (verse 4)—and beyond—and satisfies our deepest need.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, You are the One who satisfies. Let me realize that my longings for professional success, social acceptance, and even family affection are functioning the same way. Give me the love that is better than life! Amen.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:40AM*

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
*available during 9:40 **AND** 11:00 services
- NURSERY (through Age 3)
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** EXPLORE THE BIBLE – Room B8-10 (Lower Level)
1 and 2 Thessalonians with Jim Kline
- MASTERWORK – Room B11 (Lower Level)
"All Of Grace" with Lane Kemler (3.6–4.10)
"Absolute Surrender" with Jack Devlin (4.17–5.29)
- PERSON OF INTEREST – Room B1-2 (Lower Level)
with Steven Miller
- *MEMBERSHIP CLASS – Room B11 (Lower Level)
with Executive Pastor - Bob Lehman (11:00am)

SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00PM

- Kids** KID'S CLUB (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
CURRENT SERIES: The Beatitudes
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs
- Adults** DIVE DEEP WITH DOUG
LOCATION: Worship Center
CURRENT SERIES: Israel Tour
- BIG IDEA – SMALL GROUP(S)
LOCATION: Room B8-10 (Lower Level)
Group discussion following the scriptures and themes of Sunday morning's message. Jump in any time as we go through the Book of ACTS together.

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY GROUPS OR CLASSES,
PLEASE USE THE CONNECT CARD IN YOUR BULLETIN. THANK YOU!

SERMON NOTES

Acts 3:1-26

*How do you become a faithful and focused servant of God?
What does a faithful and focused servant of God do?*

1. Be A _____ (v 1)
- ◆ Recognize that God can _____ you where you are.

*God often uses ordinary people under ordinary circumstances in ordinary settings to do His work.
The Lord is not so much concerned about your ability as He is your availability.*

2. Be A _____ (vv 2-5)
- ◆ Don't _____ anyone.

*John and Peter did not ignore the crippled man.
They treated him as if he mattered.*

3. Be A _____ (vv 6-26)
- ◆ Give people what they _____.

*People think they need more happiness,
money, personal freedom, peace of mind, joy,
balance, fulfillment, confidence, stability, and passion.*

*Now, there is nothing wrong with a person
having these blessings in his life.
However, what people need most is eternal
life through faith in Jesus Christ.*

E2 Edifying and Equipping Every Day
TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



March 27 – April 1

INTRODUCTION: Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and groups. This guide is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion in the Word.

OVERVIEW: This week's daily readings and reflections will help us take our next step in our teaching series on the book of Acts. Monday's and Tuesday's readings will build on today's message. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for our new sub-series in Acts: STEADFASTNESS. Next Sunday, we will look at Steadfastness in Suffering in Acts 4.

KEY VERSE: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

–ACTS 1:8