

## ***Sermon Series: The Power of Love***

2/23/25 “The World,” Luke 19:1-11 (1-10), MEV

**INTRODUCTION** If we are to sacrifice for believers, how are we to love unbelievers?

Jesus: new command (John 13:34-35) given 1 time in bible, but 8-9 times: love our neighbors (those outside church) as we love ourselves, beginning Leviticus 19:18, affirmed by Jesus in Matthew.

**Matthew 22:36-39, NLT: 36** “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” **37** Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

What does loving our neighbor look like?

**Luke 10:36-37, MEV: 36** “Now which of these three do you think was a neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” **37** He said, “The one who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

**Matthew 7:12, NLT:** “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.

What would we most want from someone? Truth about life & death?

**MAIN IDEA: Love our neighbors as we do ourselves.** How? Here are four things to do.

### **I. First, come to our neighbors.**

- A. people in our lives: neighbors, co-workers, classmates, friends, family
- B. intentionally to build relationship in which we know each other, can talk
- C. help them when we see a need

**ILLUSTRATION:** *Jesus came to earth...cookies at Christmas, this Easter*

### **II. Second, expose them to Jesus (1-3)**

- A. show them His love...*mercy, kindness, grace, gentleness*
  - 1. pray for them

- 2. offer to pray with them as opportunity arises

- B. tell them what Jesus has done for you (witness)

**Acts 1:8, NLT:** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And **you will be my witnesses**, telling people about me everywhere—**in Jerusalem**, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**ILLUSTRATION:** *Jesus healed, walked among them...postal truck*

### **III. Third, seek those who are open** *like Zacchaeus*

**Seek:** to look for, search after

- A. those who are curious
- B. those who are hurting and want help
- C. can tell when the “window is open”
  - 1. interested in hearing
  - 2. might ask questions

**ILLUSTRATION:** P/S witnessed to many vs. later window open

### **IV. Finally, share His offer with them**

**Lost:** those who will be “destroyed” or “killed” (*Mounce*)

**Save (sozo):** to deliver or protect or rescue; to heal; to make whole

- A. tell those interested what He has done for us: *He died for us (Romans 5:8), rose again, offers life (Romans 10:9)*
- B. ask if they would like to begin a relationship with Him
- C. tell them they need only believe, surrender, talk with Him
- D. assure them He loves them & will hear them

**ILLUSTRATION:** Bruce, Kevin, Chris, Uncle Jim

**CONCLUSION:** commanded to love our neighbor... are we doing so? **Chris: I was never told; I wish I'd known**

Dr. Joseph Parker: “Seize the fleeting chance; where there is a man that you can only see today, for he will be gone tomorrow, do good to him.” **“Only diamond cuts diamond; but the hardest heart, if cut at all, can be cut only by the tenderest.”**

**ALTAR:** Repent of not loving neighbor? Fear of doing so? Commit to doing so?