



Characteristics of an MSMBC DISCIPLE

Lesson 3: **M**eet Others' Needs

OBJECTIVE: To focus on the third characteristic of an MSMBC disciple and discuss how we can meet the needs of those in our community and beyond our church walls

The Number 3 characteristic of a Mt. Sinai Disciple is to Meet Others' Needs.

THINK ABOUT IT

What are some of the needs that you see in our surrounding community?

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:25-37

INTRODUCTION

Jesus often spoke to His disciples in parables, stories that illustrated a moral or spiritual lesson. We know this parable as "The Good Samaritan."

BIBLICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

We've often heard that the Jews did not interact with the Samaritans. To understand the magnitude of this parable we need to know why they did not interact.

After King Solomon's rule, the kingdom of Israel was divided into the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom. Both kingdoms turned to corruption despite the warnings of the prophets. Because of their disobedience, God warned them that they would be taken by their conquerors. The northern region was taken captive by the Assyrians. While many Israelites were taken to Assyria, some remained in the land and intermarried foreigners that were brought in by the Assyrians. These half-Jewish and half-Gentile people were called Samaritans. The Samaritans created a religion for themselves, they had their own version of the Pentateuch, and they rejected the prophet's writing and Jewish tradition. When the Jews returned to rebuild Jerusalem, the Samaritans opposed them. This opposition along with a religion that the Jews felt was heresy, further divided the Jews and the Samaritans. The Jews found the Samaritans more disgusting than the Gentiles.

Let's Now Read Luke 10:25-37

I. Meeting Others' Needs Allow Us to Demonstrate Our Love for One Another (vs. 25)

The lawyer asked Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus directed him to the law for his answer. The lawyer responded, "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."

We are commanded to love. Loving each other shows our love for God.

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John 13:34-35: I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another.”

QUESTION: Do you really love people?

1 John 4:7-8: Beloved, let's love one another; for love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Romans 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for the one who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* Law.

QUESTION: Do you love helping people?

QUESTION: What are ways that we can demonstrate love to people that will help meet people's needs?

II. Meeting Others' Needs Require That We Reach Beyond Our Walls (vs. 29-33)

In vs. 29, this same lawyer asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?”

In Greek, the word “neighbor” means someone who is “near” or “close to.” In Hebrew, neighbor means “someone who you are associated with.”

Jesus expands the lawyer's understanding of the term “neighbor” by showing him that a neighbor isn't limited to people that are close to you in proximity or relationships, but neighbor also extends beyond your immediate circle. Thus, Jesus uses a Samaritan, an unlikely person that a Jew would have befriended, to show the extent to which we must reach others.

Scripture Reference: John 4: 7-15

- 1. Notice Jesus' willingness to interact with a Samaritan woman?**
 - 2. What was the Samaritan woman's spiritual need?**
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John 4: 16-22

What was the Samaritan woman's emotional need?

QUESTION: Should we base our helping on how we feel about someone?

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Deuteronomy 15:11: For the poor will not cease to exist in the land; therefore, I am commanding you, saying, 'You shall fully open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.'

Luke 6:28: Bless those who curse you, pray for those who are abusive to you.

Luke 6:35: But love your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil people.

Philippians 2:4: do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

III. Meeting Others' Needs Require that We Make Sacrifices (vs. 34-35)

As we continue with the parable, a man who was stripped and beaten by robbers has been left for dead. Both a priest and a Levite saw the man and passed by him. (*Note: The text even states that they went on the other side*). However, the Samaritan **(1)** felt compassion, **(2)** came and bandaged his wounds pouring oil and wine upon them, **(3)** put the wounded man on his own animal, **(4)** took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day, the Samaritan **(5)** took out two denarii and paid the innkeeper, **(6)** told the innkeeper to take care of the man, **(7)** and ensured the innkeeper that he would repay him for whatever more he spent.

When we meet others' needs, it calls for us to use our time, talents & gifts, and resources (i.e., physical or financial).

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Hebrews 13:16: And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Matthew 5:42: Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

Proverbs 3:27: Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

Luke 3:11: And he would answer and say to them, "The one who has two tunics is to share with the one who has none; and the one who has food is to do likewise."

APPLYING THE LESSON

As disciples, we learn some basic principles about *Meeting the Needs of Others* based on this parable?

- a. Don't ignore the people around us who have immediate needs.
- b. We must respond with love and compassion.
- c. We must be willing to become involved physically.
- d. We may have to make sacrifices when helping someone else.
- e. We must be committed.
- f. We may have to follow up with additional support.

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CONCLUSION

Review the needs of the community that you identified at the beginning of the lesson.

As MSMBC Disciples, how can we ***show our love and compassion beyond the walls as we sacrifice*** to meet those needs?
