

10-07-2018

Message: The Love of Those Who Inherit Eternal Life, Part 2

Text: Luke 10:25-42

Introduction

- A. Today we return to Jesus's words in Luke 10:25-42 for part 2 of our message, "The Love of Those Who Inherit Eternal Life." Our crucified, risen, now reigning Lord Jesus Christ inspired Luke to record His words in 9:23ff, describing the faith of His disciples whose lives He would save.

Luke 9:23 And He was saying to *them* all, "**If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.**"²⁴ "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.**"²⁵ "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?"

- B. Then beginning with 9:51 on into chapter 19, Jesus inspires Luke to make a literary turn in his gospel, highlighting Jesus's resolve to journey to Jerusalem, to the cross. We the readers and hearers are now being invited by Jesus to take up our crosses daily and resolutely join Him on that journey.

Luke 9:51 When the days were approaching for His ascension, **He set His face firmly to go to Jerusalem;**

- C. Jesus has Luke include material in this "journey" section to unpack for us what being a Christian, a follower of Jesus as Lord really looks like in every day life (Cf. 9:57,58). More than once Jesus is asked the question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Luke 9:57 As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "**I will follow You wherever You go.**"⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "**The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**"

Luke 18:18 A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, **what shall I do to inherit eternal life?**"

- D. And so here in Luke 10:25 we have a lawyer, a scholar of the Old Testament law, testing Jesus with this same question. Jesus points him to the Scriptures as the place where the answer is to be found, and turns the test on the lawyer.

Luke 10:25 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, **what shall I do to inherit eternal life?**"²⁶ And He said to him, "**What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?**"

- E. When the lawyer gives an answer citing Leviticus 19:18 and Deuteronomy 6:5, Jesus affirms

his answer as being correct. But simply knowing the Scriptural answer, necessary as that is, was not enough for Jesus to affirm that the lawyer possessed eternal life. The lawyer needed to do what he presently was not doing - obeying the Scriptures by a faith working through love.

Luke 10:27 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."²⁸ And He said to him, "**You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE.**"

F. As we said last week, it is good for us Christians to be reminded of what it means to be a Christian, to be confronted anew with the choice that was before us when we first gave our lives to Jesus Christ as Lord. Because the Scripture reminds us that sin easily entangles us, we believers should open our hearts to be reminded of and to renew our pledge to follow Jesus by faith with all our heart, soul, mind, strength/body, and to love Him by fervently loving from the heart the people for whom He died.

G. If you are here today and know you are not a follower of Jesus, or are deceived into thinking you are a Christian when in reality you are not, hear His words of life, calling you to wholehearted faith and love toward Him, by which He, and only He, can lift you from the pit of eternal death in which you are now trapped and place you in freedom on the path to eternal life.

I. The command to love God with all of our being is not a hypothetical-unachievable command, but is obeyed by faith by all who follow Jesus to the cross.

A. Proof from the context. The following context shows both the Samaritan (10:29-37) and Mary (10:38-42) doing the very things Jesus exhorts the lawyer to do. So Jesus intends the lawyer and us to understand the answer He confirms as true is not a hypothetical-unachievable answer, but the true answer.

B. Proof from elsewhere in Scripture. If we should still reason, "no one can love God with all their heart," we must conform our reasoning to God's revelation in His Word, where God describes people's wholehearted love for Him.

1. God says that believers such as King David and King Josiah love God with all their hearts.

1 Kings 14:8 and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you-- yet you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me **with all his heart**, to do only that which was right in My sight;

2 Kings 23:25 Before him (Josiah) there was no king like him who turned to the LORD **with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might**, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.

2. God leads His people to say to Him (and not to lie to Him), "With all my heart I have

sought You.”

Psalm 119:10 **With all my heart** I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments.

II. Obeying Christ’s command to wholeheartedly love God is expressed by delighting in hearing and obeying the Lord’s word - The Example of Mary.

- A. 10:38-42 gives us an example of Mary doing this very thing. We would be deceived to think that we can love without serving. But we would be equally deceived to think that we can truly serve without loving.
- B. 10:38 Jesus is a traveler. He is in need of hospitality.

Luke 10:38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

- 1. Mary and Martha live in Bethany (John 11:1-2; 12:1ff)
 - 2. Jesus traveled with an entourage (cf 8:1-3), so feeding this group was no small matter.
 - 3. Martha welcomed Jesus. She appeared to be obeying the 2nd command in 10:27 - love your neighbor as yourself. She was practicing hospitality. This is what disciples do.
- C. 10:39 Mary was also doing something disciples do.

Luke 10:39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.

- 1. She was listening to the Lord’s word, seated at His feet - the posture of a disciple. Acts 22:3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under (**at the feet of**) Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today.
 - 2. That a woman would be seated at the feet of a rabbi was surprising, paralleling the surprising parable of a Samaritan being a neighbor, a member of God’s covenant community. These two examples are only found in Luke’s gospel, contributing to its “outcast motif,” emphasizing that all are welcome to be a disciple of Jesus through a faith in Him that obey through love.
 - 3. It is possible that Mary had initially been helping with the meal preparations, but once Jesus began teaching, she began feeding on His word.
- D. 10:40 Martha was distracted (Greek “perispao” = “pulled away”) with all her preparations.

Luke 10:40 But **Martha was distracted with all her preparations (diakonia)**; and **she came up to Him** and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving (diakoneo) alone? Then tell her to help me."

1. Martha was distracted - from what? Loving Jesus. She was full of anxiety and frustration, not only at her sister Mary, but at Jesus for allowing Mary to sit at His feet while Martha was still making preparations for Jesus, His disciples, his entourage.
2. So now, Martha, the distracted one, becomes the distractor, interrupting Jesus's teaching, distracting others from hearing His word. Martha has completely lost perspective on \ what is truly important, both for herself, for her sister Mary, and for all the others gathered in her home. She is suggesting Jesus is being insensitive to and uncaring about her situation, and is demanding of Jesus that He command Mary to leave His feet and return to helping Martha. She is in effect demanding that Jesus command Mary to stop loving Him.
3. When our service fails to be rooted in love for God, we fail to serve Jesus. That's why our serving Him is not to be done begrudgingly, but cheerfully, from a heart of love.

1 Corinthians 13:3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, **but do not have love, it profits me nothing.**

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one *must do* just as he has **purposed in his heart**, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.**

E. 10:41 Jesus's compassionate rebuke to Martha.

Luke 10:41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;

1. The "doubling" of her name is for emphasis. In this case, emphasizing both compassion and importance.

Luke 13:34 "O **Jerusalem, Jerusalem**, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!

Luke 22:31 "**Simon, Simon**, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat;

Acts 9:4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "**Saul, Saul**, why are you persecuting Me?"

2. Martha was: distracted (40), worried (41), bothered (41). Perhaps she wanted her meal to be perfect. It is better to be a listening disciple than an immaculate host.

F. 10:42 One thing matters

Luke 10:42 but only **one thing is necessary**, for **Mary has chosen the good part (meris)**, which shall not be taken away from her."

1. one thing is necessary - pursuing Jesus with all our hearts.

Luke 18:22 When Jesus heard this, He said to him, "**One thing** you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and **come, follow Me.**"

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but **one thing I do**: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, **14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

2. Mary chose the "good part" (Gk: meris) = portion, share, lot, heritage, inheritance. The Greek "meris" translates the Hebrew "manah" which often refers to a food portion.

1 Samuel 1:4 When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give **portions** to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters;⁵ but to Hannah he would give a double **portion**, for he loved Hannah

3. Mary has chosen the portion, lot, the destiny, the inheritance of the disciple - the Lord Himself. Jesus will not allow this to be taken away from Mary.

Luke 10:42 but only **one thing is necessary**, for **Mary has chosen the good part (meris)**, which shall not be taken away from her."

Psalms 16:5 **The LORD is the portion (meris, LXX) of my inheritance** and my cup; You support my lot.

Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but **God is** the strength of my heart and **my portion forever.**

4. Sitting at Jesus's feet and consuming His word in order to know Him - there is no better meal. Jesus said, (John 14:15) "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And we see in Luke 10 that He commands us to love Him with our whole being, and doing that includes loving to sit at His feet to hear from His word, that we might know Him, and love Him more.
5. If we love Jesus, we will fight through distractions, make every effort to know Him by sitting at His feet and hearing His word, in personal devotions, and through the messengers/teachers He appoints to use as His channels to us. If we are not providentially hindered, why would we not want to hear from Jesus through the teachers and preachers He sovereignly appoints for us each Sunday? Why would we love a cup of coffee or wandering the halls more than remaining in the room and hearing from Jesus?

6. If we love the Lord, then we will love His word which reveals Him to us, by which we come to know Him. Mary is an example of this love for the Lord.

Psalm 119:97 O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. ... ¹⁰³ How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

This is no selective love - I love the NT but not the OT. I love God's promises but not His warnings. I love some commandments but not others. The love of God's Word that leads to wisdom, insight, understanding is unselective - we love all of God's Word. Since every word that emanates from God reveals who He is, selective love of God's Word = rejection of the God of the Word as He truly is, and therefore is no true love. A husband who selectively loves his wife only in the bedroom does not truly love her but simply exploits her when it suits him. We are to love God's word of rebuke, correction, reprove, as well as God's word of comfort, commendation, promise.

III. Obeying Christ's command to wholeheartedly love God is a matter of eternal life and eternal death.

- A. Jesus said that those who love God and His people as He commands are those who will live.

Luke 10:27 ... "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."²⁸ And He said to him, "**You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE.**"

- B. If our faith does not produce wholehearted love for the Lord, now revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ, then the Lord will curse us with eternal death.

1 Corinthians 16:22 **If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed (anathema).**

Ephesians 6:24 **Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.**

1 John 3:14 ... **He who does not love abides in death.**

IV. Obey Christ's command to wholeheartedly love God is made possible by God's gracious, enabling power.

- A. It is the Lord who will remove the deadness of our hearts and enliven us by His regenerating, indwelling Spirit, so that we can do by His grace and power what we can never do by our own resources - love Him and live.

Deuteronomy 30:6 "Moreover **the LORD your God will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, **to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with**

all your soul, so that you may live.

Colossians 2:10 and **in Him you have been made complete**, and He is the head over all rule and authority;¹¹ and **in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;**

Jeremiah 24:7 **I will give them a heart to know Me**, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me **with their whole heart.**

- B. This is the love of those who inherit eternal life, who deny themselves to follow Jesus all the way to the cross.

James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive **the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.**

Conclusion

- A. The Lord promised that He would hear a people who would by His grace call upon Him, pray to Him, seek Him with all their hearts, and be found by them. Do we want to be numbered among such people?

Jeremiah 29:12 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.¹³ 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me **with all your heart.**¹⁴ **'I will be found by you,' declares the LORD,**

- B. It is no coincidence that beginning in Luke 11:1, Jesus inspired Luke to record His answer to His disciples' request, "Teach us to pray." Lord willing, next week we will sit at Christ's feet, seeking to have His words direct our wholehearted prayers to Him.
- C. But even now we have other words from the Lord through the 86th psalmist, teaching us to pray to the Lord for a heart that is not divided in its affections, but is united, wholly devoted to loving Him. If you believe, like I do, that we need such help from Him, then pray with me now in unison:

Psalm 86:11 **Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.**¹² **I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and will glorify Your name forever.**