

Luke 10.25-37

This is the third scenario in the Gospels where we find Jesus emphasizing the “double love” command.

Here the questioner approaches Jesus with two questions:

(1) “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

(2) “Who is my neighbor?”

This first question is akin to the question of the rich young man who asked, “What good thing do I need to do to get eternal life?” (Matthew 19.16)

Behind these questions is a particular intent; in reality, these questioners believe that they are in a good place—

- ▶ “All these I have kept,” the young man said. (Matthew 19.20)
- ▶ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10.29)

Jesus however, discerned something very different—

Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” (Matthew 19.21)

- ▶ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. (Revelation 2.4)
- ▶ I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up . . . for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. (Revelation 3.1-2)
- ▶ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. . . . You say . . . But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. (Revelation 3.15-17)

The issue is not how we see ourselves—we will always see ourselves in the best possible light. The real issue is: how does Jesus see us and how do we measure up to his likeness and pattern of life?

(1) God is uniquely and distinctly: LOVE. And because He *is* love, He is worthy of being loved—

“with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.”

(2) Through Jesus, we have been invited into a relationship where we experience fullness of love.

“I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17.23)

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3.17-19)

(3) We are called into a life of love where we love as we have been loved, just as Jesus loved us as he was loved by the Father.

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5.1-2)

“Come follow me.”

To love God as He deserves to be loved, to love others as God has loved us, and to live a life of love requires an “all-following” of Jesus. In other words, to be his apprentice—leaving all to be with him, become like him, and do as he did.

Following Jesus is not a minimal standard effort— it will require you to reorder your entire life around following Jesus as your undisputed highest priority, over your job, your money, your reputation—over everything.

“with all your mind”

“As apprentices of Jesus, you and I have both the ability and the responsibility to set our minds on him.”

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6.6-9)

One thing I ask from the LORD,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,
and to seek him in his temple. (Psalm 27:4)

The capacity to set the heart's attention on God—so basic to following Jesus—is the very commodity we are losing to the “attention commodity,” trading looking for liking and gazing for doomscrolling.

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” (John 14:15-21)