



“Do Something”

Biblical Text: Luke 10:29-37

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Do.Something.KC – you’ve figured out that it’s our theme for these three weeks. And as you’ve heard many times today, after all the preparation VBS starts this week, where somewhere between 150-200 kids will be all over our campus.

It’s a pretty cool gig. I am one of some eighty volunteers – I’ll be working the registration table so I can have face-time (*the non-electronic variety*) with almost every family and every child who is here. I am pumped!

I love all our VBS themes every year – each one offers something unique. But I am more excited about this year than any of the previous ones. Thanks to the inspiration of God and Karen Eisele. Give her some love.

I am most excited that this year’s theme, **Do.Something.KC** comes right out of our purpose as a Church. Loving God. Loving People. Gets at the why we give back, why we do all these things that KC is great at doing for other people.

Our students will be meeting people who are making a difference. Many are from Old Mission - all of them are from KC. The one I’d like to highlight today comes from our ***Staff**. (9:45 - our ***Young Adult Life Group**.)

Let’s see the video. *** Give them some props!** We all can ***Do Something!**

Last week, we started looking at what I call **rule one** and **rule two** from Luke 10. (Also found in Mark 12 and Matthew 22.) Matthew’s version puts it this way.

*** “The first and greatest commandment is this. ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.’ And a second is like it. ‘You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ ”**

Think about it.

*** • Rule 1, Loving God**, means spending time with God. Getting here on Sunday is not always easy in our busy lives. But it’s important. And not sufficient by itself.

It can’t be all we do to love God. Last week we said it changes things if we see that we are to love God with our possessions, money, relationships, words and actions.

*• **Rule 2 is Loving people.** Jesus said Loving God and Loving people are inseparably connected. Rule 2 means going out of our way, extending hospitality, rearranging our schedules, using all we have and are to meet the needs of people. These five words, * **“Love your neighbor as yourself,”** are so powerful that the Bible uses them over and over - in Leviticus 19:8, Matthew 19:19, Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31, Mark 12:33, Luke 10:27, Romans 13:9, Galatians 5:14, and James 2:8. Every sermon I have ever preached was longer than five words! Oh, a lot longer! Ann has been listening to me for more than thirty years. I think she'd agree.

But often less is more. And Jesus was the master of the short sermon. Some were just one sentence. * **“Love your neighbor as yourself.”** His verses were often short and memorable – but rarely soft. Instead they were muscular, strong - even confrontational. And this one is just five words, **“Love your neighbor as yourself.”**

And the young lawyer, or teacher of the law, that we meet in Luke 10 knew the words. He knew they came from Leviticus 19:18. Knowing the words is important. But just knowing them is not enough.

This much is clear in the verse right before where ours starts today - Luke 10:28. Jesus says: * **“Do these things, and you will live.”** These words are what scholars call a “turn in the text.” “Do these things...” Jesus said. Don't just talk about loving God with all one's heart and soul and strength and mind - * **Do.Something.KC.**

But then in verse 29, the teacher of the law asks * **“And who is my neighbor?”** Fredrick Beuchner explains the conversation this way in his book, Wishful Thinking: * **“When Jesus said to love your neighbor, a lawyer ... asked Jesus to clarify what he meant by neighbor. He wanted a legal definition.”**

But Jesus didn't give him a legal definition. Instead told the story or parable of the **Good Samaritan**, which makes it clear just who our neighbor might be and who among us acts like a neighbors to them. The lawyer's response is left unrecorded in the text. **We don't know if he ever “got it.” But we did.**

And we know this story. We have made it part of our vocabulary. So much that it has come to represent any random act of kindness. There are “Good Samaritan Laws” in most states. Countless sermons have been preached on this text. We have built Sunday School lessons around this story as we teach it to children. I still remember my Sunday School teacher using that precursor to videos called the * **“flannel graph”** as she moved the felt characters around.

“A man was laying in the road, where robbers had beat him, and left him for dead. Now a Priest was going down that road; and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. A Levite also came by, but he also passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan came near; and when he saw the man he was moved with compassion. He bandaged his wounds, and took him to the hospital. He even came back to check on him and pay whatever the costs were himself. Who do you think was the neighbor?”

How many of you know that story? I thought it was familiar. Well, we don't always use flannelgraphs today, although we probably have some in Michele's office, Amen? Today we're more likely to use a video like this one. *

We'll be teaching that story, reworking it for our KC context all week in VBS.

Jesus is reminding us that all people are worthwhile in the sight of God – even Samaritans. But Jesus' main point is even broader and deeper, and more personal and confrontational for us. Look at the text in Luke 10:36: * *“Which one of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who was beaten and left by the road?”*

The teacher of the law knows the truth. So do we. And in the next verse, he answers his own question, *“The neighbor is the one who showed mercy.”*

He can see himself by the side of the road. So can we. He knows that when mercy is needed only mercy will do. He knows when grace is needed, only grace will do. At the point of need, everything else is secondary.

Once we have received love and grace, we have to learn to give it away. John 4:19 puts it this way: *“We love because he first loved us.”*

But when Jesus tells us to love our neighbors, he is not telling us to love them with cozy emotional feelings. We can't produce feelings on demand. But we can still do what love requires. To quote one of my favorite movie lines:

“We can love completely without complete understanding.”

There is one last short sermon in the text. Don't miss Jesus' words in Luke 10: 37 to the teacher of the Law. Just four words. But they are as powerful a sermon as I know. Jesus says, * *“Go and do likewise.”*

*** Or as we put it at Old Mission - Do Something KC. Amen.**