



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Story of One Thing!

Luke 10:25-42

Message #35 of 50 – S815

Sermon given on October 28, 2018



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

A Story of One Thing!

Luke 10:25-42

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 10**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- Who would like multi-million-dollar idea?
- Three ideas that if you develop these products you will be uber-rich
- Idea #1 – develop a pill that you only have to take once – get down to 15 to 20% body fat and increase muscle tone – without changing your diet or exercise
- Idea #2 – develop a system that teaches you anything in your sleep – if you are going to do that one, start with Biblical Greek – there are companies that say they can do that – doubt it
- Idea #3 – develop a program that by attending one 30-minute meeting will change something about you, or by attending it you can change someone else – Kelly would want to change my Grinch heart and make it grow a couple more sizes
- There is something in most people that wants to find the easy way, the shortcut, success without cost or effort, the get-rich-quick idea
- Reality doesn't usually work like that
- Oh, there are rare exceptions, but they are rare, and exceptions to normal reality
- Jesus promised us an amazing life **John 10:10 (read 2nd half first)**
The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.
- But notice, Jesus also warns us that we have an enemy who is going to try to mess up our lives
- Even good people are going to experience bad things **John 16:33**
These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.
- The abundant life is promised, and so we should live to attain it
- But it is not a one-step journey, there are no shortcuts, and it might not be easy

- Today we are going to look at three people as they focused on one thing and their interaction with Jesus
- Through this I hope we can live out our story in the abundance promised by Jesus
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Story of One Thing!**
- Jesus can't go anywhere without a crowd following Him
- Most of them wanted something from Jesus, healing, teaching, food, or just to watch Him work miracles
- What do you want from Jesus? It is an important question
- Someone from the crowd has a question
- We are going to see that this first person wants **Justification**
- **Luke 10:25**
- 'lawyer' an expert in the Law of Moses and also in the traditions of the Jews
- 'stood up and tested Him' – every week in the Greek class we take a quiz, to evaluate our progress
- That is not what is going on here – 'test' = tempt, or try to trap
- The religious establishment is jealous of Jesus' popularity with the people – trying to find a way to discredit or condemn Him
- **Luke 10:26**
- Jesus doesn't get sucked into the trap, but turns it around on the man
- You're an expert in the Law – what does it say?
- **Luke 10:27-28**
- Lawyer quotes out of Deuteronomy and Leviticus
- Jesus says, that's right, go do it
- Lawyer should have realized that Jesus was calling him to do the impossible
- It is impossible for any man or woman to love God completely and to love his/her neighbor as themselves
- This lawyer couldn't live by the standard that he just told Jesus he should be living – makes him a lawbreaker **James 2:10**

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

- God’s standard of perfection to satisfy Him is impossible – at least apart from Christ
- Instead of allowing conviction to work in his heart, pride rises up
- **Luke 10:29**
- ‘justify’ means: declare to be righteous
- This man already believes he is righteous, and believes that he already qualified to go to heaven
- He wants Jesus to agree with him
- Instead, Jesus tells him a story – a parable – a story using real life things to communicate a spiritual truth
- This may be one of the most famous of Jesus’ parables – the Good Samaritan
- **Luke 10:30**
- The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was notorious for bandits
- It is possible that this is a true story
- **Luke 10:31-32**
- These two religious guys looked upon this wounded man, did not respond
- Anyone listening to this story probably would not have been surprised by the response of the first two characters in the parable
- But they probably expected Jesus to use an ordinary Jew as the hero
- **Luke 10:33-35**
- Samaritans and Jews were often openly hostile to each other
- This Samaritan didn’t just help the wounded man, but went out of his way to make sure he was going to be okay
- Remember the context of this parable is the lawyer asking how to have eternal life – Jesus told him to live by loving God with all of himself and loving others as himself
- **Luke 10:36-37**
- This lawyer came to Jesus to try to trap Him and ended up discovering that his knowledge and religion was not going to get him to eternal life
- We don’t know how this lawyer responded
- What he wanted from Jesus was justification – Jesus gave him truth
- That brings us to our next two characters and their one things

- **Luke 10:38-39**
- Martha and Mary are sisters – they have a brother, Lazarus, whom Jesus will later raise from the dead
- Jesus often stayed at their house when He was in the area
- **Luke 10:40**
- Martha wanted **Help**
- She was busily serving Jesus and those who were with Him
- She was being a good hostess – exercising her gift of hospitality
- But she was serving alone – her sister wasn't helping
- The key to understanding this verse is the word 'distracted'
- The idea of a distraction is something that draws you away from something else
- What was she being distracted by? 'much serving'
- Her preparing this meal for Jesus and those with Him was distracting her from something – What?
- Let's look at Jesus response and then we'll answer that question
- **Luke 10:41-42**
- Martha is trying hard to serve Jesus, but it wasn't what Jesus needed at that moment
- She was trying to prepare a meal for Jesus, when a bag of pita chips and Sabra roasted garlic hummus would have sufficed
- 'one thing is needed' – and Mary chose it – what did she choose – what was the one thing she wanted from Jesus
- **Luke 10:39**
- Mary's one thing was **Jesus Himself**
- Martha thought that what she was doing was more important than what Mary was doing, and she told Jesus that
- He lovingly, gently corrected her, and told her the opposite was true
- Verse 40 says Martha was distracted by much serving
- Distracted from what – 'sitting at the feet of Jesus and hearing His Word'
- There is nothing wrong with serving God
- Without people serving God, this church would not be able to function like it does

- But our service cannot distract us from sitting at Jesus' feet and hearing His Word
- The moment it does, we become like Martha 'worried and troubled about many things'
- God calls all of His people to serve Him
- In fact, the abundant life is lived out in service to God
- Turn to **Ephesians 4**
- That is how Jesus did it **Mark 10:45**

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

- When we invite people to serve in the church, it is not just because we need help, but also because it was what God created you for
- Listen carefully to this
- **Ephesians 4:11-16**
- If you study that carefully, you will find that every person in the church has a place and a responsibility to help the community of the church to be better
- The more we serve God and each other, the better everything becomes
- Jesus led the lawyer to confess the one thing that really mattered to God – to love God with your whole being – and to love others as much as you love yourself
- One of the ways we do that is by serving, like Martha was trying to do
- Another way is to sit at Jesus' feet and hear His words
- It is not an either/or situation – both/and situation – it is about balance
- My life is devoted to serving God and helping others to serve God
- I would quickly become like Martha if I didn't regularly take time, like Mary, to sit at Jesus' feet
- Listen, my life is great – I love my life – it is abundant
- It is not perfect – far from it – we have cares and concerns – for our grandkids, our kids, my mother
- Not to mention carrying the burden of the community of the church – their cares, concerns, hurts, struggles, loss, pain – can be overwhelming
- But when life threatens to overwhelm me, I shift to Mary-mode, I go sit at the feet of Jesus **1 Peter 5:6-7**

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- And when I do that, He takes my burdens, and fills me with His presence, power, and love – and then I shift back into Martha-mode, without the worry and being troubled part – serving Him out of the love He poured into my heart
- Kelly and I did that this last weekend – took four days to let Jesus restore us – now, ready to get back to work serving Jesus
- The abundant life is yours to live – it is not easy – not a pill you can take – not a system to follow – not a program to attend
- It is about loving God with your whole being and your neighbor, which includes everyone you encounter in this life, and you do that by balancing between serving Jesus and sitting at His feet listening to what He has to say to you
- Do that and you will be truly rich
- **Pray!**