



Date: October 6, 2019

Scripture: The Good Samaritan – Luke 10: 25 ff.

Today we took a brief break from the book of Ruth to celebrate and encourage the “Go Local” ministry of our church. “Go Local” operates in partnership with our “GMT – Global Missions Team.

- Our Global Missions Team focusses on four areas (Compassionate Care, Sending Our Own, Malay, Tatar [2 Unreached People Groups]).
- The Go Local team focusses their efforts on our local ministry.

Jesus told us... Acts 1:8 (ESV) <sup>8</sup> **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**”

#### **For Midland Free**

- **Jerusalem** = Midland (Go Local)
- **Judea and Samaria** = Mid-Michigan (Go-Local)
- **The End of the Earth** = The G.M.T.’s four foci

Can you name anyone on the GMT?

Can you name anyone on the Go Local Team?

Who is the chair person for GMT?

Who is the chair person for Go Local?

How many Local Ministries does Midland Free directly support financially?<sup>i</sup>

What opportunities do you have to be a part of the community?

How do you tie the Gospel to your service so that people don’t miss the message of the cross?

Please look up and read Micah 6:8. How does the parable of the Good Samaritan illustrate that truth? (Please consider committing Micah 6:8 to memory. It is one of the simplest and most important verses in the Bible).



Please read, digest, discuss, and meditate on the following – as it relates to the Good Samaritan.

### **John Newton**

- (Former Slave Trade Ship Master, converted, became an abolitionist, authored the Hymn “Amazing Grace”)

*“The love of God, as manifested in Jesus Christ, is what I would wish to be the abiding object of my contemplation; not merely to speculate upon it as a doctrine, but so to feel it, and my own interest in it, as to have my heart filled with its effects, and transformed into its resemblance; that, with this glorious Exemplar in my view, I may be animated to a spirit of benevolence, love, and compassion, to all around me; that my love may be primarily fixed upon him who has so loved me, and then, for his sake, diffused to all his children, and to all his creatures.”*

Elliot Ritzema, ed., *300 Quotations for Preachers* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012).

### **Speaking of Samaritans...**

In the following story (John 4:1-26), how does Jesus relate to a person of an antagonistic culture? How does he keep the conversation moving in a spiritual rather than antagonistic direction?

Often people say things like “extend grace.” In the Biblical sense, this is absolutely true. However, if it means turning a blind eye towards sin, this is not grace, but cheap grace – grace that does not require restitution for sin. Real grace requires restitution – payment for sins, not necessarily by the sinner themselves, but restitution nonetheless.

In this passage – how does Jesus perfectly balance “Truth and Grace”?

What hard truth does he relate to her?

What is the grace he shows her?

If we used this as a paradigm for sharing our faith – what would that look like?

What truths would we need to make clear in order to fully communicate the Good news of Jesus?

What grace would we also need to communicate?

As you close, please pray for someone specifically in your path and pray that God will give you an opportunity to share BOTH truth and grace with them.



John 4:1–26 (ESV)

## Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

**4** Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup>(although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), <sup>3</sup> he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. <sup>4</sup> And he had to pass through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

<sup>7</sup> A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, **"Give me a drink."** <sup>8</sup> (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, **"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."** <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, **"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."** <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, **"Go, call your husband, and come here."** <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, **"You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."** <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, **"Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."** <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, **"I who speak to you am he."**



## Life Group Questions

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[mefchurch.org/life-groups](http://mefchurch.org/life-groups)

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<sup>1</sup> **14** – Fostering Hope (Royal Family Kids Camp and TRAC), Life Clinic (PRC), Young Life, Mike Peterson-Inter Varsity to College Students, Caregiving Network, Michigan Abolitionists, Adopted Area-North Midland, Adopted Area-Grove Park, Labor of Love (Douglas), Open Door, Spring Hill, Forgotten Man Ministry (Prison), Unallocated Local, Regional Church Planting through the EFCA.