# For the Love of God

Luke 10:25-41

Jesus said… "No one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is better.'" Luke 5:39

## Luke

Research project for Theophilus
To show the powerful reliability of Jesus' life & teaching

"**Travel narrative**" from Luke 9:51-19:27
- From Galilee to Jerusalem where Jesus would die
- Through Samaria, the despised "half breeds"
- On His way to His death, Jesus was making disciples…of us too

## Luke 10:25-42

- Leviticus 19:17-18
- Psalm 26:5; 31:6
- Leviticus 21:1b-2a

## The Big Idea

### God's standard is…
### to love God and people fully with heart, attention, and generous service

"Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining." 1 John 2:7-8

**Ancient words…heard afresh**

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Deuteronomy 6:5
"Love your neighbor as yourself." Leviticus 19:18

Not self-righteous, self-justifying, selfish, comparing, 'loving those who love us'
**Genuine love**…even sacrifice, even for enemies

## What should we do?

### Love people by giving and serving

See with compassion
- Where I am rejected
- Those with bad theology, politics, attitudes, …

Love with the love we have received from God
With great wisdom & with real giving

### Give & serve for the love of God

Do what we do for the love of God
- Love with head & heart: Sit at Jesus' feet
- Love with hands: Serve with freedom and joy
- No matter what others do or don't do

## Impossible commands…plus grace in Jesus

> "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:6-8

---

## Reflection Questions for later today or this week…

1. What was the expert's interpretation of "love your neighbor as yourself"? How might the expert in the law have preferred his own interpretation of this commandment better than Jesus' interpretation?

2. In what situations might you feel justified in not sacrificially giving for the good of someone else? How do you rationalize not loving them?

3. What was Martha's understanding of what was happening on the day Jesus visited her house? How was this not an expression of love?

4. When do you get frustrated, worried, or upset when you are serving others, perhaps thinking that other people aren't working as hard as you are?

5. How would you put into your own words the two great commandments in verse 27?

6. What is significant about God's command to love Him with heart, soul, strength, and mind? How does the fullness of that command help us understand what Martha's real problem was?

7. **Digging deeper:** How did Jesus perfectly obey these commands? Read Philippians 2:5-8 and Romans 5:6-8.

8. When we fail to obey these commands as Jesus intended and as Jesus did, what hope do we have?

---

## Conversation starters

When do we find it hard to love people by serving and giving? How do we rationalize not loving them?