

SERIES	ALL HANDS ON DECK
BIBLE	Luke 10: 25-32
TITLE/TOPIC	Serving Hands
OVERVIEW	<p>Many people in the world love the idea of Jesus being a man of love. The world's definition of love, however - based in feelings of empathy, temporary commitments, and a desire for quick fixes - is very different from what Jesus actually models and teaches. True Christian love rooted in faith in God expresses itself in serving people. Jesus example of this loving service will challenge us all to see, stop, and share our lives as we ask God to give us SERVING HANDS.</p>
SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN	<p>25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"</p> <p>26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"</p> <p>27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'^[a]; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[a]"</p> <p>28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."</p> <p>True discipleship is rooted in faith in Jesus that expresses itself in love toward God and neighbors. (25-28)</p> <p>Jesus affirms this man's understanding that the life of a true disciple is marked by love. And love is rooted in faith, dependence, trust in God. Paul clarifies what Jesus is affirming in Galatians...</p> <p>Galatians 5: ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. <u>The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.</u></p> <p>¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh^[a]; rather, <u>serve one another humbly in love.</u> ¹⁴ For the <u>entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."</u>^[b]</p> <p>29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"</p> <p>30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.</p> <p>Love for God and neighbor is a compassionate, serving love: (29-35)</p> <p>This man asks a question from a prideful heart. Jesus uses this occasion to teach how the mercy and love of God expresses itself in serving hands.</p>

- **Acknowledging the world is full of beat-up people (30)**

³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

- **Overcoming the temptation to see hurting people within your reach and pass by on the others side. (31-32)**

³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii[Ⓜ] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

- **Seeing, stopping, sharing (33-35)**

A Samaritan – those looked down upon by devout Jews of Jesus day, the descendants of “mixed” people of Israel and the Assyrian empire. Jewish people would go to great lengths to walk around Samaria rather than encounter a “half-breed, Samaritan dog”. Jesus makes a Samaritan the compassionate hero of the story.

The Samaritan saw (like the priest and Levite saw) and he took pity on the beaten Jewish man. Of all the people, this is the guy we would understand if he passed by on the other side. Jews don't like Samaritans and Samaritans don't need to stoop and help Jews. Just the way things are. But he stopped and took pity.

SERVING REQUIRES TIME As he was traveling, he stopped, saw, had pity, helped. He allowed the stranger's crisis to become his priority. **Compassion is never convenient.

SERVING BRINGS MESSY ENGAGEMENT Went to him and bandaged wounds (had to touch him, get blood and mud all over himself). **Truly loving people is always more involved than you expected, “messy”.

SERVING SHARES RESOURCES. Bandage, oil, wine, donkey, time, money, connections... Put him on donkey (had to rearrange all that he was previously transporting... maybe let go of some profit of a business deal, maybe allowed his own clothes to be used to bandage the blood...) Took him to an inn, and cared for him himself. Gave up his day's agenda to care for this Jewish stranger. Then arranged for him to continue to be cared for – the inn keeper trusted this Samaritan and allowed for longer care. Serving is inviting people into our relational resources. ***Serving requires sacrifice and generosity.

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

	<p>Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."</p> <p>Love for God and neighbor is expressed in being a neighbor to all, <u>serving people with the mercy of God.</u> (36-37)</p> <p>Jesus changes the question: The man had asked "Who is my neighbor" and implied a limitation, a boundary on who he needed to love.</p> <p>Jesus asked "Who was a neighbor". Disciples of Jesus are those who view themselves as neighbors to all and look at people with the compassionate, merciful heart of Jesus.</p>
GOSPEL	<p>How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?</p> <p>Using the parable of the good Samaritan - We were the man beaten by sin and left for dead. We could not save ourselves. We need someone outside ourself to see us and show us mercy. Jesus came from another world but entered our world and loved us - his enemies. He saw us in our misery and applied His beautiful resources of grace to live, die, and rise again for us! Jesus' compassion gives us new life. In response to what Jesus has done, we are called to repent, trust Him, and love the people of the world the way Jesus has first loved us.</p>
NEXTSTEPS	<p>Begin Connect Engage Grow Disciple</p> <p>Engage in serving the church family with Sunday ministries, etc.</p> <p>Engage in the mission of Jesus with serving the people in the neighborhood.</p>