

Luke 10:25-29: One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

So far in this series, we've learned how the Fruits of Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, and Kindness growing in our lives can literally transform our thoughts, our attitudes, and our actions. If we honestly look at the attitudes and actions of the system of the world that does not include God in anything, we can clearly see why it's so important for us to stop conforming to the patterns of this world and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. This week as we look at the Fruit of Goodness, once again we're going to find that the world's perception of goodness and God's standard are very different!

- 1A) PERSONAL: How would you define the words good or goodness? Then look up the definition in a dictionary.
- 1B) PERSONAL: Do you think mankind is naturally good?
- 1C) What are we told about goodness in the following passages? Psalm 14:

Romans 3:12:

- 2A) In Luke 10:25-29, who was questioning Jesus, why, and what was his first question? Verse 25
- 2B) How did Jesus respond to him? Verse 26
- 2C) How did their interaction reveal to everyone that this man already knew the answer to his question? Verses 27-28
- 2D) What was the second question and why did he ask it? Verse 29

Read Luke 10:30-37:

- 3) How did Jesus respond to his second question and how can His answer help us understand the concept of "goodness?"
- 4A) Describe the different people involved in this Parable and their point of view concerning the Jewish traveler.
- 4B) PERSONAL: Considering the actions of the "Good" Samaritan, why do you think it's important for us to be transformed in how we see other people?
- 5A) How did the "Good" Samaritan demonstrate that he was willing to use his time, possesions, and resources to "love his neighbor" even though he didn't know the man?
- 5B) PERSONAL: Why do you think it's important for us to be transformed in how we see and think about our time, possessions, and other resources?
- 6A) Busyness can be one of our greatest problems. How do we know that each person in the Parable was busy?
- 6B) How did the "Good" Samaritan reveal that his priorities were different from the others?
- 6C) PERSONAL: Why do you think it's important for us to be transformed in how we see our priorities?

Read Luke 6:35-36:

7) What are we told to do in this passage and how does this relate to the Parable that Jesus told?

ACT: The world's concept of goodness is based on very temporary things, but if our minds can be transformed to look at goodness from God's perspective, we'll have a much better, more generous and caring attitude towards other people and we'll be willing to use our time, possessions, and other resources to help or "love our neighbors." When our priorities are based on loving God and loving others, then our actions will be an expression of the goodness, grace, and love of God.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

• This week let's read various passages to discover that goodness comes from God.

Monday:

Psalm 27:13-14 NLT

Yet I am confident I will see the Lord's goodness while I am here in the land of the living. Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.

Tuesday:

Psalm 31:19 NLT

How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.

Wednesday:

Hosea 3:5 NLT

But afterward the people will return and devote themselves to the Lord their God and to David's descendant, their king. In the last days, they will tremble in awe of the Lord and of his goodness.

Thursday:

Acts 14:16-17 NLT

In the past he permitted all the nations to go their own ways, but he never left them without evidence of himself and his goodness. For instance, he sends you rain and good crops and gives you food and joyful hearts.

Friday:

Acts 27:24-25 NLT

'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.' So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said.

Saturday:

Romans 14:17 NLT

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Sunday:

1 Peter 2:9 NLT

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.



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