

a resource for
orphan
sunday

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An Initiative of
**The Christian Alliance for Orphans
& The Cry of the Orphan**

RED LETTERS: We are the Good Samaritan

by Tom Davis

Luke 10:25-10:37

Questions to consider in the study?

1. How would our lives change if we focused on living the “Red Letter” words of Jesus in the Bible?
2. What things would you start doing more of?
3. What things would you stop spending so much time on?
4. Which of the characters in the story are you more like? The priest, the levite, or the Samaritan?

When Jesus walked the streets of Jerusalem, Capernaum, and Samaria, what were the issues that moved him? What kind of people did he reach out to?

One word that describes Him more than almost any other is: **COMPASSION**

- Compassion for the sick, the lame, and the blind
- Compassion for the oppressed and the captive
- Compassion for the untouchables, prostitutes and lepers

Luke 10:25-37

The Good Samaritan – this is the way to live

5. How do you live? What are the things that bring true life to your soul?

Living comes by loving God with all of your heart and loving your neighbor as yourself. Love is the key.

6. How do you normally treat your neighbor? What is the attitude of your heart towards strangers? What about homeless people holding up signs on the side of the road?

The expert in the law wanted to justify his love of God and neighbor and asked, ‘Who is my neighbor?’ (v. 25-34)

- The man on the side of the road was left half dead and naked. It could have been you, a family member, someone you care for, or a complete stranger.
- This man he had worth, value and dignity because of the image he was created in. He deserved to be loved and cared for. He deserved a chance to live.
(Jeremiah 29:11-13)
- The people representing the Church passed over on the other side.
- The most unlikely of candidates, a ‘dirty’ Samaritan hated by the Jews, showed God’s love to a perfect stranger.

- Jesus wants us to see from the eyes of the victim. He's the one who received a neighbor that day.
7. What would you do if you found someone beaten on the side of the road? What if that person was a drunk? Would it change how you would treat them?
 8. Why did the Priest and Levite pass on the other side?
 9. What attitudes do you see in your own life, that resembles their attitude?
 10. How is God using the 'Samaritan's' of our day to care for the poor?

(v. 35-37)

The Key: Have mercy on people and go and do likewise.

Mark 1:40-41 (MSG) – A leper came to Him (Jesus), begging on his knees, “If you want to, you can cleanse me.” *Deeply moved*, Jesus put out his hand, touched him and said, “I want to. Be clean.” Then and there the leprosy was gone, his skin smooth and healthy.

11. Jesus didn't walk on the other side of the road. What kinds of things can you change to make sure you are connected with issues that afflict the poor, the orphan, and the widow?
12. What does it mean to have mercy?

"The dying, the crippled, the mentally ill, the unwanted, the unloved -- they are Jesus in disguise. ... [through the] poor people I have an opportunity to be 24 hours a day with Jesus. Every AIDS victim is Jesus in a pitiful disguise; Jesus is in everyone.. ... [AIDS sufferers are] children of God [who] have been created for greater things." (*Time Magazine* – Mother Theresa)

LIVING the RED LETTERS – is about having mercy. It's about changing the world and restoring God's creation to its original intent.

13. How can you change the world by 'being' Jesus?
14. The Bible is clear that we are the hands and feet of Jesus. How do others see that in your life?

You are the Good Samaritan.

Challenge to you today: Find Jesus in the eyes of the poor, the broken and the downtrodden. Be Jesus...the world is desperate to see Him.

Revelation 22:12

Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds.