

## ***Sunday Sermon Notes*** ***"Committed Love"***

### **The most difficult command of all:**

"Love your enemies"

People who do not like me

People who say bad things about me

People who are unfair to me

People who try to harm me

People who take advantage of me

*This is the love that makes Christians different*

### **Confusing Christian love with emotions:**

Love verses the desirable

Love verses being attracted to

Love verses liking someone

*Jesus commands behavior, not feelings*

### **The actions Jesus commands:**

Act kindly

Say positive things

Pray for them

Refuse to retaliate

Give willingly

### **Making a commitment to love:**

Admit my weakness

Be filled with the Holy Spirit

Let behavior lead my feelings

### **Relationships Christians commit to love?**

Church

Family

Work

Community

***What should I do that I want others to do to me.***

## ***Digging Deeper***

### **Notes for Individual Meditation and Small Group Discussion**

#### **Reviewing the Sermon:**

Why do you think Jesus gives us such a difficult command to fulfill?

How does defining love as a "behavior" and not as an "emotions" help you to understand Jesus' command?

Which of the actions Jesus commands us to do is the most helpful for you when trying to "love you enemy"?

Pastor taught us that making the commitment to love requires three things. Which of these steps do you think is the most difficult?

In what relationships have you found loving most difficult: church, home, work, community?

Which of the qualities of love do you think is the most important for us to have? Which are the most difficult?

#### ***Bible Study: Luke 10:25-37***

#### ***Discussion Questions***

*(Remember that not all questions must be used)*

This passage records a conversation Jesus has with an expert in Jewish law about how to inherit eternal life. Jesus agrees with the expert that the law teaches two essential commands: love God and love our neighbor. Jesus confirms that living a life of love is the principle upon which we are all to build our lives.

What do you think it means to love God "all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"? Why do you think it is hard for us to really love God this much?

How does knowing that love begins with behavior and not with emotions help us to understand loving God better?

How do you think the man hoped to "justify himself" by asking the question, "and who is my neighbor?"

The story of the "good Samaritan" is best understood by knowing the general hatred the Jews and Samaritans had for one another. By using this example Jesus was teaching what it meant to "love our enemies."

Why do you think the priest and Levite chose not to help the man who was injured? What do you think is the significance that they "passed by on the other side?" Why do you think we are all inclined to do the same thing as these religious leaders?

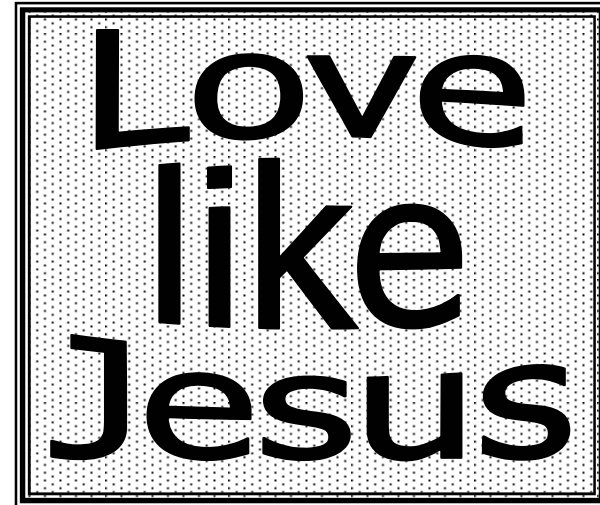
What risks can you think the Samaritan man was taking when he chose to help the injured man?

List the various "behaviors of love" the Samaritan man performed when showing love to the injured man. Which of these are you most impressed with?

Jesus asks who was "a neighbor to the man who fell among robbers." What do you think might be the difference between "loving my neighbor" and "being a neighbor"?

**Prayer Time:**

Give people a chance to share struggles they have in loving someone who may be their "enemy." Pray for each other to learn to love our enemies as Jesus taught us to love.



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***Luke 6:27-36***

***"Committed Love"***

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Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at

[www.middletownnaz.com](http://www.middletownnaz.com)