

## Victory of the Lamb – May 20, 2018 – Pastor Bill Limmer

### Luke 10:25-37 Relationship: Some Assembly Required – Help Wanted . . . Help Needed

Help Wanted . . . Help Needed. **Jesus said, Love your neighbor.** Angela and her children, 2 yr old Beverly, and 4 yr old DJ were visiting Milwaukee from Tennessee when Angela lost control of her SUV near 22<sup>nd</sup> and Layton. The SUV hit a tree and burst into flames. (Picture of the scene) Help Wanted . . . Help Needed. Good Samaritans quickly gathered at the site. Angela was able to hand Beverly to bystanders through the top of the vehicle. Angela was able to escape through the windshield after bystanders smashed the windshield in with metal pipes. But DJ remained trapped and screaming in his car seat as the flames spread throughout the car. Two brothers, who were off duty fire men had rushed to the scene as well. An off-duty police officer was also there and used two fire extinguishers to fight of the flames. John and Joel, the off-duty firemen, were not able to find the button to release DJ's seatbelt. They ended up cutting the car seat restraints off and rescue him from the burning car, while a neighbor with a garden hose was dousing the little boy with water. Everyone came together to assemble a rescue. It ended up being a great day because of the Good Samaritans.

And that brings us to today which is a big day in the history of the Christian Church. It is Pentecost. Pentecost is the day when there was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who brings people to faith, keeps people in faith and leads us to share the greatness of God's love. And so, it is just right that today in the second service is Confirmation Sunday. Because we celebrate four young people brought to faith in baptism, kept in faith through the Word of God are now going to commit themselves to grow in faith and to share God's love with others: Today on Pentecost Sunday, Confirmation Sunday we dive into God's Word and see Relationships: Some Assembly Required Love Your Neighbor Help Wanted and Help Needed.

(Help Wanted Sign) All over SE Wisconsin we see signs up on the windows and doors of various businesses Help Wanted (Help Wanted sign). Probably in many of our homes some mom's some wives wouldn't mind to see Help Wanted signs by the garbage, the dishes, the kids, the kids rooms, the grocery store list. Etc., Help wanted. Keep that in mind as we go into our teaching today in a story that Jesus taught that many of us call The Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Luke 10:25 **On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"** An expert in the law., probably not so much of an attorney as a theological scholar. Now Jesus knows that since this guy is a scholar that this softball question comes with evil intent. The guy is going to know the answer. So Jesus does what Jesus does best, he answer the question with another question. Jesus asks: <sup>26</sup> **"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"** Know that Jesus isn't messing with him, but he is going to teach him and you and me the truth of God.

<sup>27</sup> **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"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"**<sup>28</sup> **"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."** Jesus replies BINGO! <sup>29</sup> **But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"**

And now Jesus tells a story: A man was traveling from Jerusalem, and as the people heard this they thinking cool, favorite city, and he was traveling Jerusalem down to Jericho, oops Jericho is sin city, Las

Vegas. As he was on his way he got jumped. They viciously and savagely beat him. We are not talking about a punch or two. We are talking a vicious ongoing pummeling. He was so badly beat, he was all but dead. They took all of his belongings and left him on the road to die. A priest happened to be traveling on the same road. When he looked up he saw something/someone on the road. As he got closer, he determined it was a human being. But instead of stopping to help, he hurried to the other side and walked past the man and did not look back. Simply leaving the man to die. Not long after that a Levite, a pastor in training, came to the place. A little bit closer than the priest. He was intrigued. He thought about helping out. But perhaps he was a little shy, unsure of himself, fearful, or maybe it was something else but he too left the man, declothed, bloodied, in a heap to die. But then a Samaritan saw the man in the distance and ran up to him. His heart broke for him. He kneeled down and began to bandage his wounds, pouring on oil and wine which was the antiseptic of the day. Then he took the man and brought him to an inn (which represents the church) where he would receive great care. Help Wanted . . . Help Needed

So do you know anyone you can help? Who is your neighbor? who is broken, lying on the road? The person in the cubicle across the way? The mother were her hands full of children at the soccer practice, the father running late trying to make ends meet for his family, and getting angry by their second because it is not working out the way he had hoped and reamed it would. The person walking aimlessly at the mall trying to figure out what to do with her marriage that is on the rocks or with his child who ever time your time rebels even over the simplest of things. Overwhelmed, burned out, stressed, fill with anxiety, worried that someone will find out what is really going on in their life, in their mind, fear that people will find out that they really don't know what is next, fear of what the future may hold, trapped, running in the rat race, burdened, needing a mentor, a friend. Who has a Help Wanted Help Needed sign on their heart?

Friends, who is the expert in the law in the story? Who are you in story? We are the man beaten down and left to die. Sin strips us of holiness. You and I are the one spiritually naked and beaten down on the road left to die because of sin and Satan. Some of us have been crushed by the lust of sin. And the more you give in the more you get beaten down. Some of us have put on masks to avoid the truth. Some of us keep so busy to avoid reality. Some of us are frozen. Some of us are insecure. Some of us live in the glass house of pride. We are a stones throw away from being shattered thinking we are sinkable just like they did on the Titanic. Some of us are striving so hard to be found worthy, to be loved. We want someone to help us, we need someone to love us. We need a Samaritan to stop by bandage our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wounds. We need someone to provide rescue and healing. We need a Good Shepherd. We need a Savior. We need Jesus.

And Jesus meets us where we are at, on whatever road we are on. He gives us his clothes. Binds up our broken hearts with his grace. Picks us up. Carries us piggy back through the storms of life. He loves us despite our failures. And he pays the price, the price of our sin, debt, and regret. He pays the price of time and the price of life to heal us, save us, and he provides for us the inn of heaven to live with him forever in heaven. The price Jesus paid isn't money it was his life.

You see a lot of people think Christianity is about rules and regulations but it is about Jesus. And because that today is a great day. Jesus loves us despite the disaster and dysfunction of sin and our lives. And he rescues us. It's only when we see that we are the one who are in need of rescue, the ones who have been beaten, left for dead but rescued by Jesus that we will be able to love God and love our neighbor. It's Christ love that compels us, not our will, shame or guilt but his love for us that compels us to treat others as we would like to be treated. Help Wanted Help Needed. Jesus provides exactly what you have

really always wanted and exactly what have always needed. And Jesus is exactly what your neighbor wants and needs to. Look for the broken and let Christ's love for you and all people lead you to share what everyone has always wanted and needed, Jesus!