

Message.

The world calls us to identify and destroy enemies, but Jesus' radically commands us to love them. This command is rooted in the Gospel. The story of the Good Samaritan is not simply telling us to be nice to strangers, but a powerful illustration of what Christ did for us. Jesus is the Good Samaritan, and we are the man in the ditch, destined for death. God loved us while we were His enemies, rescuing us when we were hostile toward Him; therefore, we are called to love our enemies in response to the Gospel. This love is demonstrated through practical actions like prayer and refusing retaliation, fulfilling the church's ultimate calling. *Because Jesus loved us when we were His enemies, we love our enemies so the world may see His love through us.* #bccBIGidea

Prayer.

Heavenly Father,
You saved me while I was still Your enemy. May I love my enemies with this same love.
Amen.

Scripture.

Luke 10:25-37

Supplementary Scriptures: Matthew 5:44; Romans 5:10; 12:14, 21

Engage.

Focusing on Luke 10:25-37 – The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Reframing the Question: The lawyer asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus asked, "Who proved to be a neighbor?" How does Jesus shift the focus from defining love to doing love?

Modern Samaritan: For the Jew, the Samaritan was the enemy. Who is your modern-day "Samaritan"—the person or group you are conditioned to view with suspicion or opposition?

Religious Excuse: The priest and Levite prioritized religious duty/personal convenience over helping. What are you most tempted to prioritize over costly, hands-on love for someone in need?

The Call to Action: Jesus said, "Go, and do likewise." What is one specific, inconvenient action you are challenged to take this week that shows the Good Samaritan's kind of love?

Focusing on Gospel Response – Sermon Application

Our True Identity: Derik taught, "We are the man in the ditch", and "God loved us while we were His enemies" (Romans 5:10). How does recognizing that you were God's enemy change the way you view the people you are currently tempted to despise or hate?

The Motivation for Love: Since we love our enemies in response to the Gospel, what specifically does the cross of Christ teach you about the cost and unconditionality of true, enemy-loving compassion?

Refusing Retaliation: The sermon stresses overcoming evil with good because of the Gospel. What is one practical, non-retaliatory good deed you can do for an "enemy" this week that would be a direct response to the grace Jesus showed you?