

Sunday February 12, 2023

Service for Swansea and Charlestown Presbyterian Church

"LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.

²Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. ⁶You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: ⁷all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, ⁸the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

Let's pray. Dear Lord Almighty, how majestic is your name in all the earth. This day we wish the whole world would recognise your name, would recognise your power and grace and justice and mercy. We admit that we don't always remember how great you are. We don't always live in line with your holiness. We don't always rely upon your power. We don't always listen to your Word. So please forgive us. And place your Holy Spirit within us so that today we might worship you with heart, soul mind and body. We might be renewed in our faith. That we might desire to humble ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus each day. Be with us today and especially throughout this service, for we need you today more than ever. And we ask these things in Jesus' name Amen.

Song – Almighty Maker <https://youtu.be/jbytk5BeQU4>

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| <p>1. Who but the Lord set the bound'ries of light
Hung the stars in the night?
Who but the Lord drew the face on the moon
Made the planets to move?
Who but the Lord tells the clouds
When to pour. Thunder to roar?
Amazing are Your works</p> | <p>2. Who but the Lord could have dreamed of the plan
That would save fallen man?
Who but the Lord washes rebels with blood
Making mercy a flood?
Who but the Lord could give life through a cross
Rescuing us?
Amazing are Your ways</p> |
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Chorus

Almighty Maker

You command heaven and earth

By the power of Your Word

Be praised forever

Almighty Maker

All creation sings of You

Glory fills all that You do

Be praised forever, ever, evermore

Chorus

Bridge

All things are from You

All things are through You

O God, the great I AM

All things are for You

All things are to You

O God, the great I AM

Bible Reading – 1 John 3:11-24 (NIV)

¹¹For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹²Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters,^[b] if the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

¹⁶This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but

has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ *Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

¹⁹ *This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence:* ²⁰ *If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.* ²¹ *Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God* ²² *and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.* ²³ *And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.* ²⁴ *The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

Announcements 12/2/23

Focus for February – Vision. Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18) Last week we outlined our vision for the year and it is a full and comprehensive one. The key component to that vision come from Acts 28:31 where the book of Acts ends with Paul preaching the kingdom of God boldly and without hindrance. So the vision has been presented, now that vision has to be adopted and committed to. That is where we all come in. Are you committed to what we are doing in this place? And how it will look for you in 2023?

Talking Teen. Presbyterian youth and the Gospel, Society and Culture committee of the denomination are running a webinar on How to connect to your teenager's experience of social media. We'll look at some of the blessings of social media as well as the risks, and give some practical ideas about how to help young people follow Jesus in this area of life. It will be held on Wednesday 23rd Feb 7:30-9:30pm. You can watch it on your own computer or if there is enough interest, we could watch in the Church together. For more details speak to Jo or Stephen. Check out the Facebook Event for more info <https://fb.me/e/4zEwJeAjM>

Church Calendar. We sent out a Church calendar last week (and this week) with our weekly email. If you haven't got a copy there are a few copies available at the door.

Regular Activities of our Church have now all started up again. It would be great for us all to look at what is being offered (Kids Church, Senior Youth Bible Study (SYBS), IMPACT Youth, SPARKLERS Playgroup, Home Groups, Just Older Youth (JOY), Special Religious Education (SRE), Young Adults Fellowship (YAF)), and see what best fits you and your family to come along to and also where you might be able to serve in the days to come.

Small Groups. It would be great if everyone could CONSIDER joining a small group this year for teaching, fellowship and Christian encouragement. We have groups for men, women and mixed, meeting weekly and fortnightly, at the Church and in homes, live or in ZOOM, weekly or fortnightly. Hopefully there is one that will work for you and your family situation. See Stephen or Jon for more details (or find last week's email from Stephen!)

Men's Event | Saturday 18th February 9am - 12pm A bushwalk in Glenrock State Conservation Area. Bible talk and encouragement in God's creation, swim optional with a steep return walk. Contact Colin Wright or Stuart Blanch to confirm and carpool. A handout with a map and more details will be available closer to the event.

Breaking the Silence Training Full course 12th Feb (12-2pm) in the Church or top-up training 19th Feb (12 – 12:30pm in the Church) . Please refer to email for those involved and RSVP to Liz Hyslop on gehyslop@optusnet.com.au

Children's Worker (approx. 8-10 hours a week). We are currently looking for a person who is willing to be our Children's Worker from term 2, 2023. This is a paid position and is for 10 hours a week. It will involve overseeing our kids work, training our children's volunteers, and helping, supporting and encouraging those who are involved in these ministries. For a full job description and for details of our remuneration package see Jon or Stephen. Applications close 1/3/23.

AM Sermon Series : Jesus Parable's: The Sting in the Tale

12.2 Luke 10:25-37 Good. Different

19.2 Luke 12:1:13-21 The Good Life or the God Life?

26.2	Luke 15:1-31	Prodigal God
5.3	Luke 16:1-15	Faithful in little...
12.3	Matthew 25	Are you a sheep or a goat?

Bible Reading – Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)

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?” ²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” ²⁷ 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’^[c]; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’” ²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” ³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii^[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Pastoral Prayer Points

Pray for our politicians: Pray for those decision-makers who are impacting our children’s education, that they put children’s welfare before political ideology.

Praise God for the ways in which the Gospel is still able to be shared in Australia and that so many lives have been encouraged and transformed as the Gospels have been distributed to Australian households.

Pray for Mexico: Pray for God’s gospel to convert people and overpower the strongholds of crime, violence, and corruption. Pray for government leaders to repent of corruption and seek God's righteousness. Pray for empty religious traditions to be replaced by real discipleship.

Link Churches in Vanuatu. Give thanks for recent mission trip. Pray for the current Seasonal Workers Program to Australia and NZ more and more workers leaving every week- Great employment/development opportunities but lots of social issues (workforce shortages in Vanuatu, family breakdowns due to long periods of separations, exploitation and poor working conditions abroad). Pray for the Hog Harbour Church as they get a new minister this month, that it will be a real encouragement and stimulus to the gospel work in that village.

Song – Jesus is His name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQfqseU2qA>

1. A light has dawned, shattered the darkness
Heaven has sent the promised one
Son of man, son of the Father
The light of the world has come

3. The prince of peace, hope of the nations
Justice and grace for rich and poor
He will reign, ever exalted
Jesus the risen Lord!

Chorus

The heavens declare, angels proclaim
Shepherds cry out, the Christ has come to save
He is our light, he is our hope
He is our gift of life
Jesus is his name, Jesus is his name

Alternate Chorus

So let us declare, boldly proclaim
Sing and cry out: "the Christ has come to save"
He is our light, he is our hope
He is our gift of life
Jesus is his name, Jesus is his name (repeat)

2. Immanuel, clothed in our likeness
Humbled himself, to make God known
Death he chose, paying our ransom
Rising to claim his own

Sermon – Good. Different. - Stephen T

Mother Teresa talks about an incident that once happened to her. She wrote, "*There was a big conference about hunger in Bombay. I was supposed to go to that meeting and I lost my way. Suddenly I came to that place and right in front of the door to where hundreds of people were talking about food and hunger, I found a dying man. I took him out and I took him home. He died there. He died of hunger. And the people inside were talking about how in 15 years we will have so much food, and what we should do in the meantime.*"

Don't you find that is often the case with us Christians? We talk and talk and often we don't do! We want to debate the big theological issues. We want to argue over whether our view of the Bible is right. And often that talk stops us from doing what we know we should do. Our interest in what the Bible says is much greater than our desire to follow what it says.

Slide 2

Nowhere could that be truer than when we turn to Luke 10 and the parable of the Good Samaritan. We know this story. We love this story. But when was the last time we actually did what the story told us to do? When were you and I last like the good Samaritan and showed mercy to someone in real need?

You see I don't always pull over when I am driving and see someone distressed on the side of the road. I often walk past the homeless man begging for money on the footpath. My consciousness has been deadened to the needs of people overseas caught in famine or floods. And I don't always help that person in need when I have the resources to help them.

That's Jesus point in the parable of the good Samaritan. I know that God calls me to love with all my heart, soul, mind and strength and he wants me to love my neighbour. And I don't do it. Pure and simple. I don't do it. So, is eternal life out of my grasp? And if it is, it might well be out of your grasp as well. Yes, we know well the Bible. And yes, we do things for the Church community and I might even say most of us are good people. But we are not good enough. We need God's mercy. And once we have received God's mercy then that mercy should flow through us to others. To our friends, family, Church and neighbours.

Slide 3

1. Let's begin by noticing **The Good Question** (Verse 25)

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?"* Now that's a good question, a great question, isn't it? "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" That's a life and death issue. That's about living life to the full not just for our three score years and 10 here on this earth but for all eternity. And that's why Jesus has come to earth to answer that exact question *"I have come Jesus declares to give life, life to the full."* That's why Jesus is here for this exact question.

Except the expert phrases the question in the wrong way. He brings out his assumptions in the very way he asks the question. For instead of asking how do we receive eternal life or get eternal life, he asks *"what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

When was the last time you did anything to inherit something? Normally you inherit something because you were born someone or had a relationship with someone. To inherit something is a gift and normally we don't do anything to inherit anything. But this is an expert in the Jewish law who is asking this question. He knows about the 10 commandments - he has memorised the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy. He is convinced that getting to heaven is about following God's law. So, he asks Jesus what must I do to inherit eternal life?

Slide 4

Now how would you answer that question? We are good Protestants, aren't we? We would quote Ephesians 2:8, wouldn't we *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."* Or you might tell this man you need to turn from your sins and put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one who died in your place and he took your sins upon himself. "Trust in Him for your eternal life." But Jesus doesn't do that. Instead, he throws the question back to him where we see two

Slide 5

2. Good Answers (Verses 26-29)

"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" Notice firstly where we are going to get our answers to questions about eternal life. The answer is in the law, the OT, the Bible. Not on Facebook, not in self-help books, not in religion but in the Bible. And this man is an expert in the law, a man who knows and loves his Scriptures.

And of course, the man has an answer, a very good answer. In fact, the very same answer that Jesus will say to another teacher of the law in Matthew 22! So, the expert answers his own question, *"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 neighbour as yourself.'*

What a great answer, Jesus implies by nodding his head! We can't love anything more than God. We must love him with everything we have got. Like a sponge that has all its water squeezed out of it, everything we possess needs to be squeezed out in love toward our Maker, our Creator, our Ruler, our Saviour. And because we can't actually see God, we need to love our fellow humans, those who have been made in the image of the invisible God, we need to love them as we love ourselves. That's how we get eternal life, loving God and loving our neighbour. ²⁸ *"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."*

Now I don't know about you but if Jesus had said that to me then I would be getting really nervous. My eternal life depends upon my love for God and for others, oh dear. For I do love God with some of my time, with a lot of my heart and quite a few of my thoughts. But all of them. Not even on my good days do I get close! And I do try to love my neighbour – yeah, the nice ones I love, the others I sort of ignore. You might

even say I walk by on the other side so as I don't get involved. So, if Jesus said that to me, I would be very, very nervous.

And guess what, the expert in the law doesn't feel that flash either! It's all right to talk about that being the standard but it's another thing entirely trying to live up to that standard. In fact that is impossible, isn't it? One unloving thought, one unloving action and I miss out. Wow, that's raising the bar too high Jesus. That would mean no-one will ever make it. Unless, unless we can fiddle with the definitions a little. Now if we can just water down what a neighbour might mean for example then I might be able to fulfil that lofty demand.

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So the expert in the law did what lawyers do so well he looked for a loophole in the law. In v 29 it says, *"But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"*

Now the lawyer's question is a bit like when Kaylene asks me to do the vacuuming. She'll say, "Steve, can you vacuum the floor please?" And my response as a loving husband is, "Of course, dear." Now all good so far, but it's the follow-up question that reveals where my heart really is. For then I ask "Would you like me to do upstairs or downstairs?" The main living area or the bedrooms? The inside or the outside and garage? Now, that seems like an innocent question, doesn't it? But let me tell you the motivation is not so innocent.

You see, what I want Kaylene to say is either upstairs or downstairs, the main area or the bedrooms, not both, and certainly not all of them! Even though I know that she'd like me to do it all! My question is aimed not at serving my wife and fulfilling the spirit of her request - my question is aimed at reducing my workload. And this is precisely the tack that the expert takes in trying to justify himself. He doesn't want to know who he can love, he wants to know who it is he doesn't have to love. And Jesus knows this. And he wants to show the expert in the law that the law of love is completely beyond him and so he tells him

Slide 7

3. The (parable of the) Good Samaritan (verses 30-37)

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers." Now this Jericho road is a notorious road, a dangerous road to travel. It's about 30 kilometres long and on either side of the road are many caves, great places for robbers to hide in. And that's what happens. There's a mugging. They steal his wallet, his mobile phone, they strip him of his clothes and they beat him and leave him for dead. Bleeding in the gutter.

But wait a second, here's help. ³¹*A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.* ³²*So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side."*

Now why don't they stop and help out? Well, why don't you and I stop when there is a person broken down on the side of the road needing help? Because it could be a trap, couldn't it? And this could be a trap as well. Or we are in a hurry, well these two leaders of the Jewish faith are probably also in a hurry to get home as well. But there is another reason. If the man is dead and they touch him, they will be unclean and so they won't be able to do their work until they are made clean again.

But this is a story of three characters, the priest and the Levite, who will be the third person? Well there were three groups of religious professionals in those days, the priests, the Levites and the experts. Wait a second the man in front of Jesus is an expert in the law so he is going to be the hero of the story, isn't he?

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No there is a sting in the tale. Verse 33 *"But a Samaritan..."* Now we knew the punchline but the expert in the law didn't see it coming. It's the Samaritan who is going to stop and help. Now what would be the 2023

equivalent for us. But a Muslim fundamentalist took pity on him. A gay activist took pity on him, an abortion clinic owner took pity on him, a Russian general took pity on him, a far-right extremist took pity on him. The person who we don't like or trust or value, they were the ones, the only ones to take pity on this man.

The Samaritan sees this man and goes over and gives him the boot, no he doesn't, he is filled with pity. And in seven simple, practical ways, in ways that anyone could do, he shows that he cares about this poor half dead man. "He went to him", "He bandaged his wounds", "He poured oil and wine on his wounds", "He put him on his donkey", "He brought him to an inn", "He took care of him". "And he paid for his ongoing expenses and needs."

That's surprising and its costly. It would have cost him his time and his effort and his money. This was a dangerous road; the robbers still might be there and then whammo there are two people left for dead at the side of the road. And I'm sure the Samaritan knew that, I'm sure he thought through the dangers and he was probably in a hurry as well. But he wanted to love his neighbour, even though he had never met this particular neighbour before. So he did what the two professional religious men had failed to do, he loved his neighbour as himself.

Slide 9

Now let's think about, let's ponder the reactions of various people to the man lying on the road. The 1st attitude is this: What's YOURS is MINE and I'm going to take it. That's how the thieves react. And that's the attitude of many people today, isn't it? They are always trying to get something from other people. And yet there is a second attitude and that is what's MINE is MINE and I'm going to keep it. Now that's a bit more respectable, isn't it? In fact, isn't that why we divide off into homes, families and fences and security doors. Making sure that what we have worked for is enjoyed by me and my family. But neither of those attitudes is that of a good neighbour for the last attitude is what's MINE is YOURS – I'll share it with you.

It is only the good neighbour who loves the beaten-up man more than he loves himself. It is only the good neighbour whose love goes beyond mere words and into actions. It is only the real neighbour that is willing to pay the cost of loving the person, really loving the person. It is only he who reaches out beyond the divide, who loves with a sacrificial love, who doesn't get out his law book and check whether he has to do this or not, he actually wants to do it, for he has been moved to show mercy. He desires to love his neighbour as he loves himself.

Slide 10

Jesus turns again to the expert and says which of these three men was the true neighbour? And notice the expert can't even bring himself to use the Samaritan's name and so he says, through clenched teeth, "*the one who had mercy on him*". So who then is my neighbour? The one who needs my mercy. And how do I inherit eternal life? By loving God with all that I have and loving and showing mercy to all the people that God has placed around me.

Now that's a high bar, an incredibly high bar. And it is a bar that is too high for me, even too high for Mother Theresa. I feel a bit like Linus who in one comic strip said "*Of course I love the human race, its people I can't stand!*" But God's reality is that loving Lucy is the measure of our love for our neighbour. And so loving the Muslim fundamentalist, loving the person who doesn't like me, loving that difficult family member, loving my fellow Christians who thinks differently to me becomes the measure of our love for our neighbour.

I was particularly shocked in early December when those police officers were gunned down in rural Queensland, a truly shocking crime, made all the worse when the next day there was a YouTube video of the woman involved in the attack, Stacey Train, quoting bible verses about the end times. So because they

thought the end times were coming and that Satan had taken control of the government, it was then OK to shoot a representative of that government.

But I am no better. I just attack with words rather than bullets. I use my beliefs to justify my poor behaviour. I don't always forgive my brother. I spend my money on myself rather than help my neighbour starving overseas. I walk by on the other side when I see people in need.

Slide 12

The truth is the expert in the law is like the priest or the Levite in Jesus story. And so are we. We proclaim that we loved others but when push came to shove, we love ourselves more than we love them. We look like we are right with God but the truth is we are nothing like God! We might know God's word but we aren't always practising God's word.

Now you might not have noticed something important. You know I have often heard it said that the priest and the Levite didn't want to touch the man because they were on their way to the temple and didn't want to be defiled. But I wonder if you noticed that both of them were coming down the road, coming down from Jerusalem! They were not on their way to do their duties, they were on their way home from being in the Temple, from being in the very presence of God. And even when they have just heard the word preached and they had just been worshipping God, they still ignore this man's need and walk by on the other side.

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Their time in worship hasn't prepared them for what is to come. Now Martin Luther King took this one step further as well, he said, "*We are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside . . . but one day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed.*" The whole system needs to be changed. The whole road to Jericho needs to be repaved.

So this story is told to prick this man's conscience. He had to be shown the folly of his thinking, not by argument, but by a simple story which would puncture his self-confidence, and humble him to his real status as a sinner like everyone else. He really thought he could or did love God and his neighbour as the law demanded, and so he had to be shown that he was wrong, that he was morally complacent. That no one can perfectly keep the Law.

For the law was there to drive the sinner to the law giver. And once there God would then show this sinner his love for them by sending his one and only son, Jesus. And Jesus would die for their sins, even for their self-righteousness. And that would be given to them not because of what they do but because they have become the sons and daughters of the living God and the heirs who will inherit the gift of eternal life.

Slide 14

Friends shouldn't the pity, the compassion, the love for our neighbour be growing in our hearts as we speak? Aren't we some of the richest people on the planet? Isn't our community filled with the needs of the elderly, the sick, the unemployed, the depressed, the lost? Where's our heart for these people? Where's our compassion? How will the love of God reach them if he doesn't use people like you and me?

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The apostle James says in chapter 3, "*If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, (16) and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? (17) Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead*"

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4. The (truly) Good One.

But then we need to take one last step and realise Christ is the only one who perfectly fulfilled the law. He was the only truly good one who has loved God and love his neighbour perfectly. Christ then is one that the good Samaritan points us to. He turns fiction into fact.

For we are like the man lying in the ditch – helpless, destitute, broken. And Jesus finds us. He doesn't walk by on the other side, but he rescues us, binds our wounds and saves us at a huge personal cost to himself. For at the cross, He paid the ultimate price, his life. And so if you and I are the recipient of that sort of mercy, that sort of grace, we are to be changed by it. We now have God's Holy Spirit within us. So we don't ask what do I have to do to keep God's commands, we ask what can I do out of a response to all that God has done for me?

For those who have received mercy will give mercy. Those who have been loved by God will love God and will love their neighbour. For there is a pool of mercy, a pool of grace, a pool of love that has flowed into our lives which is available to us to share with others. Not because you have to but because you want to. Not to earn eternal life but because we are now children of the living God and so his nature is over time changing our natures.

Slide 17

After coming to Christ, a Hindu convert, Sadhu Sundar, felt called to become a missionary to India. Late one afternoon Sadhu was travelling on foot through the Himalayas with a Buddhist monk. It was bitterly cold, night was approaching fast when the monk warned Sadhu that they would freeze to death if they did not reach the monastery before darkness.

Just as they were traversing a narrow path above a steep cliff, they heard a cry for help. Down the cliff lay a man, fallen and badly hurt. The monk looked at Sadhu and said, "Do not stop. God has brought this man to his fate. He must work it out for himself." Then he quickly added while walking on, "Let us hurry on before we, too, perish." But Sadhu replied, "God has sent me here to help my brother. I cannot abandon him."

The monk continued trudging off through the whirling snow, while the missionary climbed down the steep embankment. The man's leg was broken. He could not walk. So Sadhu took his own blanket and made a sling of it and tied the man on his back. Then he began a body-torturing climb. By the time he reached the narrow path again, he was drenched in sweat.

Doggedly, he made his way through the deepening snow and darkness. It was all he could do to follow the path. But he persevered, though faint with fatigue and overheated from exertion. Finally, he saw ahead the lights of the monastery. Then, for the first time, Sadhu stumbled and nearly fell. But not from weakness. He had stumbled over an object lying in the snow-covered road. Slowly he bent down on one knee and brushed the snow off the object. It was the body of the monk, frozen to death. The one who had loved himself over his neighbour had died but the one who loved his neighbour over himself had lived.

Slide 17

Friends it is not good enough to know the story of the Good Samaritan. It is not good enough to love the word of God. We must respond to God's love. And be different. As children of God we didn't earn our salvation by what we did, we inherited it through God's grace. And that grace changes wretches like you and me, so much so that we not only want to, but will find ourselves, showing mercy to those we would normally walk by on the other side of the road. Jesus did that for us. And his call to us this day "*is to go and do likewise.*"

Song – Live for the Kingdom https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89_LvReFill

1. Hear the good news, repent and believe	Chorus. Now is the moment, the day of salvation
Follow the saviour and everything leave	This is the hour to be serving the king
Taking the yoke that's easy and light	Bearing the gospel go to the nations
Dressed for the battle equipped for the fight	Now is the time for our tribute to bring

Learn from the master to sacrifice all
Gladly obeying his call
Live for the kingdom all of our days

2. Love one another, care for the lost
Learn to live simply and carry your cross
Jesus is near so stand and be strong
Lift up your hearts in the victory song
When you're mistreated be certain to bless
Seeking his righteousness

And live for the kingdom
And give God the glory and honour and praise

3. Learn to pray daily your kingdom come
And may your will on this earth soon be done
Forgive our sins as we forgive
Strengthen us while in these bodies we live
So we might work for that glorious day
When sin and death pass away

Closing.

³⁶ *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"*

³⁷ *The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."
(Mark 10:36-37)*