

“Leftover Love”

(Luke 10:25-28)

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I. Introduction

A. It’s spring and love is in the air

1. Love knows no age limit
 - a. Call from Fran
 - b. Christy
2. Do you remember your first date?
3. The trauma of dating
 - a. Donna, Dan and the museum
 - b. Getting sick at the carnival
 - c. Dating sisters
 - d. Stuck in a choir loft
4. The first time I saw Carolyn

B. Lots of different types of love

1. Girlfriend or boyfriend
2. Family
3. Friends
4. Church
 - a. A shelter from life’s turmoil
 1. Where there isn’t constant drama

- b. Where you feel loved
 - c. Where you feel safe
 - 1. The message is from God and not man
 - d. The local church should be:
 - 1. A House of Safety
 - 2. A House of Worship
 - 3. A House of Service
5. The love as Easter approaches

II. Text...Luke 10:25-28

A. The question that continues to haunt (v. 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?"

- 1. Not the only time this question was asked
- 2. Similar interaction in Matthew 22:34-40

(34) Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. (35) One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:

- a. Pharisees had heard Jesus had silenced the Sadducees
 - 1. Think Democrats and Republicans in Wisconsin
 - a. They didn't like each other
 - b. Vied for power
 - 2. But they both disliked Jesus more
 - a. Greater threat to their power and wealth
- b. Pharisees huddled together to discuss a plan
- c. An expert on the law of God steps up (Luke 10:25)

1. A brilliant and respected Pharisee

d. Sought to trick Jesus

1. He ***“tested him with this question”***

3. The question (v. 25)

(25) ...“Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

a. Matthew 22:35-36

(35) One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: (36) “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

1. The O.T. Law of God

b. Both received the same answer

1. Obey the greatest commandment and you will deserve eternal life

2. They meant eternal life with God

a. Heaven vs. Hell

c. They Jewish belief in eternal life

1. In a place of paradise...or judgment

2. John MacArthur

“The question is not if people will live forever, but where they will live forever”

“Talking about eternal life and especially about hell is considered uncouth, and some who profess to be evangelicals question or even openly deny Hell’s existence.”

“Jesus, however, described hell in terrifyingly graphic language and said more about it than He did about heaven.”

d. They feared hell because it was forever

1. **II Thessalonians 1:8-9**

(8) He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

(9) They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.

e. The Old Testament Law had hundreds of commandments

- f. “Which is greatest...the most important?”
 - g. Which will guarantee eternal life?
 - h. The stakes were high
4. The importance of the question to you and me
- a. I don’t want to be guilty of breaking God’s Greatest Commandment
 - 1. That would be to commit the “Biggest Sin”
 - b. And I desperately want eternal life in heaven

B. What God really wants from you (Luke 10:26-28)

(26) “What is written in the Law?” Jesus 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”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (28) You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live?”

Matthew 22 adds:

(40) All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

- 1. The 10 Commandments
 - a. First 5 involve loving God
 - b. Second 5 involve loving people
- 2. The lawyer quoted Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:18
 - a. They called it the “**Shema**”
 - 1. “Hear”
 - 2. “Shema Israel”
 - a. “*Hear, O Israel*”
 - b. Recited it twice per day
 - 1. First thing in morning
 - 2. Last thing at night

- c. Let me recite part of it to you

(4) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. (5) Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

- d. Affirmed that there is only one true God

- 1. He loves us and wants us to love him back

- e. But there was more in the Deuteronomy 6

(6) These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. (7) Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

- f. Then something a little odd

(8) Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

3. The use of **phylacteries**

- a. Small leather cubicles

- b. Held these verses

- c. Strapped to—

- 1. Forehead—close to mind

- 2. Left arm—close to heart

- 4. There was one more part...the

(9) Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates.

5. The **Mezuzah**

- a. My first trip to Israel

- b. “What *are* those things?”

- 1. Odd looking things beside doors

- 2. On the door jams....crooked

- c. Contained Deuteronomy 6:4-9

- d. As they entered:
 - 1. Would touch fingers to lips and then to Mezuzah
 - 2. To show devotion to the command
- 6. What does all this mean?
 - a. Jesus showed solidarity with Moses, the Law and the Prophets*
 - a. He was there to fulfill the law...not to overturn the law
 - b. The 10 commandments were summed up in these two*
 - a. First 5 covered our relationship with God
 - b. Second 5 covered our relationship with people
 - c. The purpose of the Law was to show the need for a Savior*
 - 1. The Law set a perfect standard none could achieve
 - 2. The Law showed them their inability to earn salvation
 - d. Above all else, God wants us to love both Him and our neighbors*
 - 1. Who is our “neighbor?”
 - 2. Next week...why this is so important today

III. Summary

A. They got a lot of it right

- 1. They said the right thing, wore the right thing, and kissed the right thing
- 2. They wore their religion, but didn't live it
- 3. They talked about love, but didn't show it
- 4. They repeated what God said, but didn't really love him

B. The lawyer tried for a loop hole

(29) But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

- 1. The lawyer should have acknowledged his inadequacy

- a. Yet he tried to “justify” himself
- b. His pride rose up
- 2. Deflected the question regarding love of God
- 3. Leapfrogged to the “neighbor”
- 4. “How do you define ‘neighbor?’”
- 5. Next week

C. What God wants from you

1. Love Him with all your Heart

- a. Heart = mind = your thoughts
 - 1. As a man thinks in his heart...
 - 2. Your thought life
- b. When you first fell in love
 - 1. Couldn't stop thinking about the one you loved
 - 2. Always on your mind
 - 3. Think about all that's beautiful in them
- c. What's on your mind when you are about to fall asleep?
 - 1. Pleasant thoughts
 - 2. Things that are special to you
- d. Letters from Carolyn
 - 1. Summer we were engaged
 - a. Working in Jacksonville, Florida
 - 2. Couldn't wait to read them
 - 3. Opened them on the way from the mailbox

- e. God wants you to love him with all your mind
 - 1. Not just on Sunday for an hour
- f. How much do you think about God?
- g. One of the purposes of Communion...Remember his love

2. Love Him with all your Soul

- a. Soul = seat of emotions = your emotions
- b. How did you feel when we sang “Beautiful One?”

*Beautiful One I love
Beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One my soul must sing*

*You opened my eyes to your wonders anew
You captured my heart with your love
Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as you*

- c. When you love God with all your emotions:
 - 1. Will cringe when his name is taken in vain
- d. Means you don't love anything or anyone more than him
- f. You still get choked up when you consider what He did for you
- g. One of the purposes of communion

3. Love Him with all your Mind

- a. The mind refers to the source of your will
- b. The place of commitment and determination
- c. Marriages
 - 1. “I *will* love you”
 - 2. More than “goose bumps” and emotions
- d. It must start with a determination to make it work
- e. “All” your mind means determining to love God with every fiber of your life

4. Love Him with all your Strength

- a. Strength refers to your actions
- b. The story of the good Samaritan next week
 - 1. It is showing his love to others
- c. To make God the first recipient of your best
 - 1. Not the recipient of your leftover strength
- d. The first recipient of your
 - 1. Time
 - 2. Treasure
 - 3. Talents
- e. Not the leftovers
- f. Not wearing phylacteries and kissing Mezuzahs
 - 1. It's more than talk