CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Luke Chapter 10 —

The Mission, Mercy, and the Better Portion

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Luke Chapter 10 continues Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem.

In Chapter 9, He sent out the twelve.

Now He sends out seventy more, two by two, to prepare the way before Him.

He warns towns that reject His message and rejoices when His messengers return.

He thanks the Father for revealing the truth to humble people.

Then an expert in the law asks how to inherit eternal life.

Jesus answers with one of the best-loved stories ever told: the Good Samaritan.

Finally, in the home of Martha and Mary, Jesus teaches that sitting at His feet is the one thing most needed.

This chapter moves from mission, to mercy, to devotion.

The chapter moves through six movements:

- The Sending of the Seventy (verses 1–12).
- Woes to Unrepentant Cities (verses 13–16).
- The Return of the Seventy (verses 17–20).
- Jesus' Joy in the Spirit (verses 21–24).
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan (verses 25–37).
- Martha and Mary (verses 38–42).

The central truth of Luke 10 is:

Jesus sends His people into a plentiful harvest, calls them to show mercy to anyone in need, and invites them above all to sit at His feet, rejoicing that their names are written in heaven.

I. THE LORD APPOINTED SEVENTY

Luke 10:1 — Two by Two

“After this, the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place He was about to visit.”

“The Lord appointed seventy others.”

Some early copies say seventy-two.

Either way, Jesus was sending a larger group beyond the twelve.

The number may remind us of the seventy elders Moses appointed, or of the nations of the world listed in Genesis 10.

“Sent them two by two.”

For support, safety, and witness.

“Ahead of Him to every town.”

Like John, they prepared the way for Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 9:37

> Then He said to His followers, “There is a large harvest, but only a few workers.”

Mark 6:7

> He called the twelve and sent them out two at a time.

Numbers 11:16

> The Lord said to Moses, “Bring Me seventy of Israel's elders, men you know are leaders and officers among the people.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus sends ordinary followers, not just leaders.

Key Truth

The mission of Jesus is shared by many.

II. THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL

Luke 10:2 — Pray for Workers

“He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.”

“The harvest is plentiful.”

Many people are ready to hear.

“But the workers are few.”

The problem is not the harvest.

It is the shortage of workers.

“Pray to the Lord of the harvest.”

Before going, pray.

God owns the harvest.

“To send out workers.”

Those who pray for workers often become the answer.

Cross References

Matthew 9:38

> So ask the Lord who owns the harvest to send more workers into His fields.

John 4:35

> Look around you at the fields. The crops are ripe and waiting to be gathered.

2 Thessalonians 3:1

> Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the Lord's message will spread quickly and be honored.

Spiritual Principle

Mission begins with prayer.

Application

Pray for workers, and be ready to be one.

III. LAMBS AMONG WOLVES

Luke 10:3 — Go!

“Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.”

“Go!”

A command.

“I am sending you out.”

They went with His authority.

“Like lambs among wolves.”

Defenseless.

In danger.

Jesus was honest about the risk.

But lambs have a Shepherd.

Cross References

Matthew 10:16

> Listen, I am sending you out like sheep surrounded by wolves. So be wise like snakes and harmless like doves.

Matthew 7:15

> Watch out for false prophets. They come to you looking like sheep, but on the inside they are wild wolves.

John 10:12

> The hired worker sees the wolf coming and runs away, leaving the sheep. Then the wolf attacks and scatters them.

Spiritual Principle

God's servants go out in weakness, depending on the Shepherd.

Key Truth

Jesus does not hide the danger, but He goes with us.

IV. NO PURSE, NO BAG

Luke 10:4 — Do Not Greet Anyone on the Road

“Do not take a purse or bag or sandals, and do not greet anyone on the road.”

“Do not take a purse or bag or sandals.”

Travel light.

Depend on God.

“Do not greet anyone on the road.”

Not rudeness.

In that culture, greetings could take a long time.

The mission was urgent.

Do not be distracted.

Cross References

Matthew 10:9

> Do not carry gold, silver, or copper money in your belts.

Mark 6:8

> He told them to take nothing for the trip except a walking stick.

2 Kings 4:29

> Elisha said to Gehazi, “Get ready, take my staff, and go. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer.”

Spiritual Principle

The urgency of the mission calls for focus.

Key Truth

Do not let lesser things slow down God's work.

V. PEACE TO THIS HOUSE

Luke 10:5 — First Words

“When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’”

“First say.”

Their first words were a blessing.

“Peace to this house.”

The common greeting, shalom.

But now it carried the peace of the kingdom.

God's messengers come bringing peace.

Cross References

Matthew 10:12

> As you enter the home, give it your greeting.

1 Samuel 25:6

> Say to him: “Long life to you! Peace to you, peace to your family, and peace to all you have!”

Numbers 6:26

> May the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Spiritual Principle

God's messengers bring peace.

Key Truth

The gospel begins with a blessing.

VI. A MAN OF PEACE

Luke 10:6 — Peace Will Rest on Him

“If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you.”

“If a man of peace is there.”

Someone open to God's message.

“Your peace will rest on him.”

The blessing would remain.

“If not, it will return to you.”

Nothing is lost.

The blessing comes back to the messenger.

Cross References

Matthew 10:13

> If the home is worthy, let your peace stay there. If it is not, let your peace come back to you.

Psalm 122:8

> For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.”

Isaiah 9:6

> His name will be called Prince of Peace.

Spiritual Principle

God's peace rests on open hearts.

Key Truth

No blessing offered in Jesus' name is ever wasted.

VII. THE WORKER DESERVES HIS WAGES

Luke 10:7 — Stay in That House

“Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.”

“Stay in that house.”

Be content.

“Eating and drinking what they provide.”

Accept hospitality.

“For the worker deserves his wages.”

Those who serve the gospel may be supported by those they serve.

“Do not move around from house to house.”

Do not look for better food or more comfort.

Cross References

Matthew 10:10

> A worker should be given what he needs.

1 Timothy 5:18

> The Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while it is working,” and “The worker should be paid.”

1 Corinthians 9:14

> The Lord also gave orders that people who announce the good news should be supported by that work.

Spiritual Principle

Those who serve the gospel should be supported.

Key Truth

Contentment keeps the mission pure.

VIII. EAT WHAT IS OFFERED

Luke 10:8 — When You Are Welcomed

“When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you.”

Do not be picky.

Do not insult hospitality.

This may hint at future mission among Gentiles, where food customs would be different.

The message matters more than the menu.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 10:27

> Suppose someone who does not believe asks you to dinner, and you decide to go. Eat what they serve you and do not ask where it came from.

Matthew 10:11

Whatever town or village you enter, find a worthy person and stay there.

Genesis 18:8

Abraham brought curds, milk, and the calf he had prepared and set it before them. He stood near them under the tree while they ate.

Spiritual Principle

Gracious acceptance opens doors for the gospel.

Key Truth

The message matters more than personal preferences.

IX. THE KINGDOM HAS COME NEAR

Luke 10:9 — Heal and Tell

“Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

“Heal the sick.”

Mercy in action.

“Tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

The message.

God's rule was breaking into their town.

The healings were signs that the King was coming.

Cross References

Matthew 10:7

Wherever you go, announce this: “The kingdom of heaven is close at hand.”

Matthew 10:8

Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and drive out demons.

Mark 6:12

So they went out and preached that people should repent.

Spiritual Principle

God's kingdom is shown in word and deed.

Key Truth

Where Jesus' messengers go, the kingdom comes near.

X. NOT WELCOMED

Luke 10:10 — Into Its Streets

“But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say,”

Some towns would reject them.

Rejection was not failure.

They were to make a public declaration.

The town would know a message had been brought.

Cross References

Matthew 10:14

> If anyone does not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that house or town.

Mark 6:11

> If any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave.

Acts 13:51

> Paul and Barnabas shook the dust from their feet and went on to Iconium.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful messengers will sometimes be rejected.

Key Truth

Rejection does not cancel the message.

XI. WIPE THE DUST FROM OUR FEET

Luke 10:11 — Be Sure of This

“‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God has come near.’”

“Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet.”

A sign: we take nothing of yours with us.

“As a warning to you.”

Not revenge.

A solemn warning.

“Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God has come near.”

Even in rejection, the truth stands.

They had been given the chance.

Cross References

Matthew 10:14

> Shake the dust off your feet as you leave.

Acts 13:51

> They shook the dust off their feet as a protest.

Acts 18:6

> When they opposed Paul, he shook out his clothes and said, “Your blood is on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

Spiritual Principle

The truth stands whether people accept it or not.

Key Truth

God's kingdom came near, even to those who refused it.

XII. MORE BEARABLE FOR SODOM

Luke 10:12 — On That Day

“I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.””

“More bearable… for Sodom.”

Sodom was known for great wickedness and was destroyed by fire.

“Than for that town.”

Why?

Because greater light brings greater responsibility.

Sodom never heard Jesus' messengers.

These towns did.

Cross References

Matthew 10:15

> I tell you the truth, on the day of judgment it will be better for Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

Genesis 19:24

> Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah from the Lord out of heaven.

Matthew 11:24

> It will be better for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.

Spiritual Principle

Greater opportunity brings greater responsibility.

Spiritual Warning

Rejecting the gospel is more serious than never hearing it.

XIII. WOE TO YOU, CHORAZIN

Luke 10:13 — Bethsaida

““Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!”

Towns near the Sea of Galilee where Jesus did many miracles.

“If the miracles… had been performed in Tyre and Sidon.”

Gentile cities known for pride and wickedness.

“They would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”

Signs of deep sorrow and repentance.

Seeing miracles does not guarantee repentance.

Cross References

Matthew 11:21

> How terrible for you, Chorazin! How terrible for you, Bethsaida! If the miracles done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, those people would have changed their hearts long ago.

Ezekiel 26:3

> This is what the Lord God says: I am against you, Tyre, and I will bring many nations against you.

Isaiah 23:1

> This is a message about Tyre: Cry, you trading ships, for Tyre is destroyed.

Spiritual Principle

Miracles alone do not change hard hearts.

Spiritual Warning

Seeing God's work without repenting brings greater judgment.

XIV. MORE BEARABLE FOR TYRE AND SIDON

Luke 10:14 — At the Judgment

“But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.”

Judgment will be fair.

God judges according to the light people received.

Those who saw Jesus' works and refused Him will be held more responsible.

Cross References

Matthew 11:22

> But I tell you, it will be easier for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.

Ezekiel 28:2

> Say to the ruler of Tyre, “This is what the Lord God says: In your pride you said, ‘I am a god.’ But you are only a man.”

Joel 3:4

> Tyre, Sidon, and all you regions of Philistia, what do you have against Me?

Spiritual Principle

God judges fairly according to the light given.

Key Truth

Privilege brings responsibility.

XV. CAPERNAUM

Luke 10:15 — Down to Hades

“And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.”

“And you, Capernaum.”

Jesus' own ministry base.

The town that saw more of His miracles than any other.

“Will you be lifted to the heavens?”

Proud of its privilege.

“No, you will go down to Hades.”

Brought low.

Privilege without repentance leads to judgment.

Cross References

Matthew 11:23

> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? No, you will be thrown down to the place of the dead.

Isaiah 14:13

> You said to yourself, “I will climb up to heaven. I will raise my throne above God's stars.”

Isaiah 14:15

> But you will be brought down to the grave, to the deepest part of the pit.

Spiritual Principle

Pride in privilege leads to a fall.

Spiritual Warning

Being close to Jesus' works is not the same as receiving Him.

XVI. WHOEVER LISTENS TO YOU

Luke 10:16 — Listens to Me

“Whoever listens to you listens to Me; whoever rejects you rejects Me; but whoever rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.””

“Whoever listens to you listens to Me.”

Jesus' messengers speak with His authority.

“Whoever rejects you rejects Me.”

Rejecting the message is rejecting Jesus.

“Whoever rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.”

And rejecting Jesus is rejecting God.

Cross References

Matthew 10:40

> Anyone who receives you is receiving Me, and anyone who receives Me is receiving the One who sent Me.

John 13:20

> Believe Me, if you take in someone I send, you are taking Me in. And if you take Me in, you are taking in the One who sent Me.

1 Thessalonians 4:8

> Whoever turns away from this instruction is not turning away from a man. He is turning away from God, the One who gives you His Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is present in the message of His messengers.

Key Truth

Rejecting Christ's messengers is rejecting Christ Himself.

XVII. THE SEVENTY RETURNED WITH JOY

Luke 10:17 — Even the Demons Submit

“The seventy returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name!””

“The seventy returned with joy.”

The mission had gone well.

“Lord, even the demons submit to us.”

They were amazed at the power.

“In Your name.”

They knew the power came from Jesus.

Cross References

Mark 16:17

> These signs will go with those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons.

Luke 9:1

> Jesus gave the twelve power and authority to drive out all demons and to heal diseases.

Acts 16:18

> Paul turned and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” And it came out at once.

Spiritual Principle

The power of Jesus' name works through His people.

Key Truth

The authority belongs to Jesus' name, not to us.

XVIII. SATAN FALL LIKE LIGHTNING

Luke 10:18 — From Heaven

“He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”

“I saw Satan fall.”

Jesus saw the defeat of Satan.

The disciples' victories over demons were signs of Satan's downfall.

“Like lightning from heaven.”

Sudden.

Swift.

Certain.

Satan's kingdom was crumbling as God's kingdom advanced.

Cross References

Isaiah 14:12

> Shining star of the morning, how you have dropped from the sky! You have been hurled down to the ground.

Revelation 12:9

> The huge dragon, that old serpent known as the devil and Satan, who fools the whole world, was cast out. He and his angels were thrown down to the earth.

John 12:31

> Now is the time for this world to be judged. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out.

Spiritual Principle

Satan's kingdom falls as God's kingdom advances.

Key Truth

Satan is a defeated enemy.

XIX. AUTHORITY OVER THE ENEMY

Luke 10:19 — Nothing Will Harm You

“I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.”

“I have given you authority.”

A gift from Jesus.

“To trample on snakes and scorpions.”

A picture of victory over evil powers.

“And over all the power of the enemy.”

The devil's power is real, but limited.

“Nothing will harm you.”

Nothing can harm their eternal life.

This is not a promise that believers will never suffer, nor an invitation to test God by handling snakes.

Many of these same disciples later suffered and died for Jesus.

Cross References

Psalm 91:13

> You will walk on lions and cobras. You will crush the strong lion and the snake.

Mark 16:18

> They will pick up snakes, and if they drink poison, it will not hurt them.

Acts 28:5

> Paul shook the snake off into the fire and was not hurt.

Spiritual Principle

In Christ, believers have authority over the enemy.

Spiritual Warning

God's protection is not an invitation to put ourselves in needless danger.

XX. YOUR NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN

Luke 10:20 — The Greater Joy

“However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.””

“Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you.”

Power in ministry is not the greatest reason for joy.

“But rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Salvation is greater than success.

Belonging to God matters more than doing great things for God.

Cross References

Revelation 20:15

> Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Philippians 4:3

> They worked hard with me in spreading the good news, along with Clement and my other co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Hebrews 12:23

> You have come to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.

Spiritual Principle

Our greatest joy is belonging to God.

Key Truth

Being known by God matters more than being used by God.

XXI. JESUS FULL OF JOY

Luke 10:21 — Revealed to Little Children

"At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was Your good pleasure."

"Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit."

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit appear together.

Jesus rejoiced.

"You have hidden these things from the wise and learned."

Those proud of their knowledge.

"And revealed them to little children."

The humble and dependent.

"For this was Your good pleasure."

God delights to show Himself to the humble.

Cross References

Matthew 11:25

> Then Jesus said, “Father, Lord of the sky and the earth, I thank You for keeping these things from people who think they are wise and for showing them to those who are like little children.”

1 Corinthians 1:27

> God picked what the world calls foolish to put the wise to shame, and what the world calls weak to put the powerful to shame.

Psalm 8:2

> From the mouths of children and babies You have built up praise because of Your enemies.

Spiritual Principle

God reveals Himself to the humble.

Key Truth

Pride hides God from us; humility opens our eyes.

XXII. ALL THINGS COMMITTED TO ME

Luke 10:22 — Knowing the Father and the Son

“All things have been committed to Me by My Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.””

“All things have been committed to Me by My Father.”

Jesus has all authority.

“No one knows who the Son is except the Father.”

The Son's true nature is known fully by the Father.

“No one knows who the Father is except the Son.”

Only Jesus truly reveals God.

“And those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.”

We can know God only through Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 11:27

> Everything has been put into My hands by My Father. Only the Father truly knows the Son, and only the Son truly knows the Father, along with anyone the Son decides to make Him known to.

John 3:35

> The Father loves the Son and has given Him power over everything.

John 10:15

> Just as the Father knows Me, I know the Father, and I give My life for the sheep.

Spiritual Principle

We know God through Jesus alone.

Key Truth

Jesus is the only One who can reveal the Father.

XXIII. BLESSED ARE YOUR EYES

Luke 10:23 — What You See

“Then He turned to His disciples privately and said, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.”

“He turned to His disciples privately.”

“Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.”

They were seeing the Messiah.

They were witnessing God's kingdom arrive.

What a privilege.

Cross References

Matthew 13:16

> But how blessed you are! Your eyes are seeing and your ears are hearing.

1 Peter 1:10

> The prophets searched carefully and tried to learn about this salvation. They prophesied about the grace that would come to you.

John 20:29

> Jesus said, “You believe because you see Me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing Me.”

Spiritual Principle

Seeing Jesus is the greatest privilege.

Key Truth

Those who know Jesus are truly blessed.

XXIV. PROPHETS AND KINGS

Luke 10:24 — Wanted to See

“For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.””

“Many prophets and kings.”

Isaiah, David, and others.

“Wanted to see what you see but did not see it.”

They longed for the Messiah.

They died waiting.

The disciples were living in the days the prophets dreamed of.

And so are we.

Cross References

Matthew 13:17

> Many prophets and good people wanted to see what you now see, but they did not see it.

1 Peter 1:12

> It was shown to them that they were not serving themselves but you. Even angels long to look into these things.

John 8:56

> Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing My day. He saw it and was glad.

Spiritual Principle

We live in the days the prophets longed to see.

Key Truth

Never take for granted what you know of Jesus.

XXV. WHAT MUST I DO?

Luke 10:25 — To Inherit Eternal Life

“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.”

A scholar of God's law.

“Stood up to test Jesus.”

He wanted to trap Him, or test His teaching.

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

The most important question anyone can ask.

But he asked it to test Jesus, not to learn.

Cross References

Matthew 22:35

> One of them, an expert in the law, asked Jesus a question to test Him.

Mark 10:17

> A man ran up, knelt before Him, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?”

Mark 12:28

> One of the teachers of the law came and asked Him, “Which command is the most important of all?”

Spiritual Principle

The right question must come from a seeking heart.

Key Truth

Eternal life is the most important matter there is.

XXVI. WHAT IS WRITTEN?

Luke 10:26 — How Do You Read It?

““What is written in the Law?” He replied. “How do you read it?””

“What is written in the Law?”

Jesus sent him to Scripture.

“How do you read it?”

He was the expert.

Let him answer.

Jesus turned the test back to the tester.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 6:7

> Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up.

Psalm 1:2

> His delight is in the Lord's teaching, and he thinks about it day and night.

John 5:39

> You study the Scriptures carefully because you think they give you eternal life, and they speak about Me.

Spiritual Principle

Scripture is the place to find answers about eternal life.

Key Truth

Knowing Scripture is good, but living it is the goal.

XXVII. LOVE GOD, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Luke 10:27 — The Great Commandments

“He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.””

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind.”

Total love for God.

Every part of life.

“And love your neighbor as yourself.”

Real love for others.

He gave the right answer.

These two commands sum up God's law.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 6:5

> Love the Lord your God with your whole heart, your whole being, and your whole strength.

Leviticus 19:18

> Do not get even with others or stay bitter toward them. Care for the people around you as you care for yourself. I am the Lord.

Matthew 22:37

> Jesus told him, “You must love the Lord your God with everything in your heart, your soul, and your mind.”

Spiritual Principle

Love for God and love for others sum up God's law.

Key Truth

The answer is simple to say and impossible to live without God's grace.

XXVIII. DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE

Luke 10:28 — You Have Answered Correctly

““You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.””

“You have answered correctly.”

He knew the right answer.

“Do this and you will live.”

Love God perfectly and love others perfectly.

But no one does this perfectly.

Jesus was helping him see his need.

The law shows how far we fall short and points us to God's grace in Christ.

Cross References

Leviticus 18:5

> Keep My laws and rules, because the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord.

Romans 10:5

> Moses writes about being made right by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.”

Galatians 3:12

> The law is not based on faith. Instead, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.”

Spiritual Principle

God's law shows us our need for grace.

Key Truth

Knowing the answer and living it are two different things.

XXIX. WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Luke 10:29 — Wanting to Justify Himself

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

“He wanted to justify himself.”

He wanted to look good.

He wanted to prove he had done enough.

“And who is my neighbor?”

He wanted to limit the command.

If he could draw a small circle, he could feel he had kept it.

The question was really, “Who is not my neighbor?”

Cross References

Leviticus 19:18

> Love your neighbor as yourself.

Romans 13:9

> All the commands are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

1 John 4:20

> Anyone who claims to love God while hating a fellow believer is lying. If you do not love the brother you can see, you cannot love the God you have never seen.

Spiritual Principle

Self-justification looks for ways to limit love.

Spiritual Warning

Beware of asking how little love God requires.

XXX. ATTACKED BY ROBBERS

Luke 10:30 — Half Dead

“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.”

“From Jerusalem to Jericho.”

A steep, winding, dangerous road through desert hills.

Known for robbers.

“Stripped him… beat him… leaving him half dead.”

Helpless.

Unable to save himself.

Cross References

Proverbs 24:11

> Save people who are being dragged off to die. Stop those who are staggering toward their execution.

Isaiah 1:6

> From your head to your feet, there is nothing healthy. There are only wounds, bruises, and open sores that have not been cleaned, bandaged, or soothed with oil.

Ezekiel 22:29

> The people of the land practice cruelty and commit robbery. They oppress the poor and needy and mistreat foreigners.

Spiritual Principle

Our neighbor is often someone in desperate need.

Key Truth

The man in the ditch could not help himself.

XXXI. A PRIEST PASSED BY

Luke 10:31 — On the Other Side

“A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.”

“A priest.”

A man who served in God's temple.

“When he saw the man.”

He saw the need.

“He passed by on the other side.”

Perhaps he feared becoming unclean by touching what might be a dead body.

Perhaps he feared robbers.

Perhaps he was busy.

Whatever the reason, religion without mercy left the man in the ditch.

This is a warning for religious people of every faith and every age, including churchgoers today.

Cross References

Leviticus 21:1

> The Lord said to Moses, “Tell the priests, the sons of Aaron: A priest must not make himself unclean by touching a dead person.”

Malachi 2:7

> A priest should teach what he knows, and people should seek instruction from him, because he is the messenger of the Lord.

Hosea 6:9

> Like robbers waiting in ambush, so the priests gather together. They murder on the road to Shechem.

Spiritual Principle

Religious duty is empty without mercy.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to be very religious and still pass by people in need.

XXXII. A LEVITE PASSED BY

Luke 10:32 — So Too

“So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.”

“A Levite.”

A temple assistant.

“When he came to the place and saw him.”

He came closer, perhaps.

“Passed by on the other side.”

The same choice.

Two religious men.

Two missed opportunities.

Cross References

Numbers 3:6

> Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to help him.

Deuteronomy 18:1

> The priests, who are Levites, and the whole tribe of Levi will have no share or land among Israel.

Malachi 2:7

> The lips of a priest should guard knowledge, because he is the Lord's messenger.

Spiritual Principle

Seeing need and walking away is a failure of love.

Key Truth

Knowledge of God without love for people is empty.

XXXIII. BUT A SAMARITAN

Luke 10:33 — He Had Compassion

“But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he had compassion.”

“But a Samaritan.”

The shock of the story.

Samaritans and Jews despised each other.

The listeners would expect the hero to be an ordinary Jewish man.

Instead, it was the one they looked down on.

“When he saw him, he had compassion.”

The same words used of Jesus.

Compassion that moves to action.

Cross References

John 4:9

> The Samaritan woman said, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan. Why are You asking me for a drink?” Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

Matthew 5:44

> Love your enemies.

Micah 6:8

> The Lord has made plain what is good and what He asks of you: be fair in what you do, treasure kindness, and live in humble fellowship with your God.

Spiritual Principle

Compassion crosses every barrier.

Key Truth

Mercy can come from the most unexpected person.

XXXIV. HE BANDAGED HIS WOUNDS

Luke 10:34 — Oil and Wine

“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.”

“He went to him.”

He did not keep his distance.

“Bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.”

Wine to clean.

Oil to soothe.

“Put the man on his own donkey.”

He walked so the man could ride.

“Brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”

Love that costs time, effort, and money.

Cross References

2 Chronicles 28:15

> The men took the prisoners and gave clothes and sandals to those who were naked. They gave them food, drink, and healing oil, and put the weak on donkeys.

Isaiah 1:6

> Wounds and sores have not been cleaned, wrapped, or soothed with oil.

Mark 6:13

> They anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Spiritual Principle

Love is practical and personal.

Key Truth

Real mercy gets involved.

XXXV. TWO DENARII

Luke 10:35 — I Will Reimburse You

“The next day he took out two denarii 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.’”

“Two denarii.”

About two days' wages.

Enough for several days at the inn.

“Look after him.”

“I will reimburse you for any extra expense.”

No limit.

He committed himself to the man's full recovery.

Many see in the Samaritan a picture of Jesus Himself, who rescues us at great cost.

Cross References

Philemon 1:18

> If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.

Matthew 25:40

> I promise you, anything you did for even the smallest of My brothers and sisters, you did for Me.

3 John 1:5

> My dear friend, you show faithfulness when you help other believers, even ones you have never met.

Spiritual Principle

Mercy goes the extra mile.

Key Truth

Love does not stop at the minimum.

XXXVI. WHICH WAS A NEIGHBOR?

Luke 10:36 — The Question Turned Around

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

The expert asked, “Who is my neighbor?”

Jesus asked, “Who acted like a neighbor?”

The question is not who deserves my love.

The question is whether I will be a neighbor to anyone in need.

Cross References

Leviticus 19:18

> Love others as much as you love yourself.

Romans 13:10

> Love does not hurt anyone. So love fulfills all of God's law.

James 2:8

> When you obey the King's law in Scripture, “Love others the way you love yourself,” you are doing what is good.

Spiritual Principle

Being a neighbor matters more than defining one.

Key Truth

Jesus changed the question from “Who is my neighbor?” to “Am I a neighbor?”

XXXVII. GO AND DO LIKEWISE

Luke 10:37 — The One Who Had Mercy

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

“The one who had mercy on him.”

He could not even bring himself to say “the Samaritan.”

“Go and do likewise.”

Not just know.

Do.

Love and mercy define a true neighbor.

Cross References

James 2:8

> You do well when you obey the most important law: love your neighbor as you love yourself.

1 John 3:18

> My children, our love should not be just talk. It should be real and shown by what we do.

Micah 6:8

> The Lord wants you to do what is fair, to love kindness, and to live humbly with your God.

Spiritual Principle

Love is shown in action.

Application

Who is lying in the ditch near you? Go and do likewise.

XXXVIII. MARTHA WELCOMED HIM

Luke 10:38 — Into Her Home

“As Jesus and His disciples were on their way, He came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.”

“A village.”

John tells us it was Bethany, near Jerusalem.

“A woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.”

Generous hospitality.

Martha opened her home to Jesus and His disciples.

That was a big job.

Cross References

John 11:1

> A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany, the village where Mary and her sister Martha lived.

John 12:2

> A dinner was given there in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those eating with Him.

John 11:20

> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed at home.

Spiritual Principle

Hospitality is a beautiful way to serve Jesus.

Key Truth

Martha welcomed Jesus with an open home.

XXXIX. MARY SAT AT HIS FEET

Luke 10:39 — Listening

“She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what He said.”

“Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet.”

The position of a disciple.

In that culture, women were rarely given that place.

Jesus welcomed her as a learner.

“Listening to what He said.”

She gave Jesus her attention.

Cross References

John 11:1

> Mary and her sister Martha lived in Bethany.

Deuteronomy 33:3

> All His holy ones are in Your hand. They sit at Your feet and receive Your words.

Acts 22:3

> I was brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel and carefully trained in the law of our ancestors.

Spiritual Principle

Disciples sit at Jesus' feet and listen.

Key Truth

Jesus welcomes everyone as a learner.

XL. MARTHA WAS DISTRACTED

Luke 10:40 — Tell Her to Help Me

“But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to Him and asked, “Lord, don't You care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!””

“Martha was distracted.”

Pulled in many directions.

“By all the preparations.”

Good work.

But it took her attention away from Jesus.

“Lord, don't You care?”

Frustration turned into blame.

“Tell her to help me!”

She tried to tell Jesus what to do.

Busyness can make us resentful.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 7:34

> An unmarried woman is concerned about the Lord's work, but a married woman is concerned about the things of this world, how she can please her husband.

Philippians 4:6

> Do not worry about anything. Instead, pray about everything, telling God what you need and thanking Him.

Ecclesiastes 4:6

> It is better to have a little with a quiet heart than twice as much with endless work, like trying to grab the wind.

Spiritual Principle

Even good work can distract us from Jesus.

Spiritual Warning

Busyness for Jesus can crowd out time with Jesus.

XLI. MARTHA, MARTHA

Luke 10:41 — Worried and Upset

““Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things,”

“Martha, Martha.”

Spoken gently, with love.

Not a harsh rebuke.

“You are worried and upset about many things.”

Jesus saw her heart.

She was anxious and troubled.

He cared about her more than the meal.

Cross References

Philippians 4:6

> Stop worrying about things. Instead, whatever happens, take what you need to God in prayer.

Matthew 6:25

> That is why I tell you not to be troubled about everyday needs like food, drink, and clothes.

1 Peter 5:7

> Give all your worries to Him, because He cares about you.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus cares about our anxious hearts.

Key Truth

Jesus loved Martha enough to speak to her worry.

XLII. ONE THING IS NECESSARY

Luke 10:42 — The Better Portion

“but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.””

“Only one thing is necessary.”

Many things were on Martha's mind.

Only one thing truly mattered.

“Mary has chosen what is better.”

Time with Jesus.

Martha was not wrong to serve.

Service matters.

But sitting with Jesus comes first, and service flows from it.

“It will not be taken away from her.”

The meal would be eaten and forgotten.

What Mary received from Jesus would last forever.

Cross References

Psalm 27:4

> There is one request I bring to the Lord, the thing I want above all: to make my home in His house all my days, to gaze at His beauty and spend time with Him in His temple.

Philippians 1:10

> Then you will know how to pick what matters most, and you will be clean and without fault when Christ returns.

Matthew 6:33

> Make God's kingdom and His way of doing right your first concern, and He will give you everything else you need.

Spiritual Principle

Time with Jesus is the one thing most needed.

Key Truth

What we receive at Jesus' feet can never be taken away.

XLIII. FIVE GREAT LESSONS FROM LUKE 10

1. God's Mission Requires Laborers

“Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.”

Principle:

Pray, go, and trust God to provide.

2. Rejecting Christ's Messengers Is Rejecting Christ

“Whoever rejects you rejects Me.”

Principle:

How people respond to Jesus' messengers is how they respond to Jesus.

3. The Greatest Joy Is Eternal Life

“Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Principle:

True joy is not in power over spirits but in the assurance of eternal life.

4. Love and Mercy Define a Neighbor

“Go and do likewise.”

Principle:

The Good Samaritan shows that love and mercy define true neighborliness.

5. Devotion Comes Before Busyness

“Mary has chosen what is better.”

Principle:

Discipleship means choosing devotion to Christ above busyness, as Mary did.

XLIV. MISSION, MERCY, AND DEVOTION

Luke 10 shows three parts of the Christian life.

Mission

“Go! I am sending you out.”

We are sent into the harvest.

Mercy

“When he saw him, he had compassion.”

We are called to help those in need.

Devotion

“Mary… sat at the Lord's feet.”

We are invited to sit with Jesus.

The Right Order

Devotion fuels mercy and mission.

Without time at Jesus' feet, our service becomes empty and anxious.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Christian life is going in mission, serving in mercy, and sitting in devotion, with Jesus at the center.

XLV. THE GOOD SAMARITAN

The parable teaches what love looks like.

Love Sees

“When he saw him.”

Love Feels

“He had compassion.”

Love Comes Near

“He went to him.”

Love Acts

“Bandaged his wounds.”

Love Sacrifices

“Put the man on his own donkey.”

Love Keeps Going

“When I return, I will reimburse you.”

Key Truth

Real love sees, feels, comes near, acts, sacrifices, and keeps going.

XLVI. MARTHA AND MARY

Two sisters, two responses.

Martha

Welcomed Jesus.

Worked hard.

Became distracted.

Grew worried and upset.

Blamed others.

Mary

Sat at Jesus' feet.

Listened to His words.

Chose what is better.

Received what could not be taken away.

Both Loved Jesus

Jesus did not reject Martha.

He invited her to the better portion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Serving Jesus is good, but being with Jesus is best.

XLVII. WHAT LUKE 10 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Is the Lord of the Harvest

“Pray to the Lord of the harvest.”

He Sends His People

“I am sending you out.”

He Is Present in His Messengers

“Whoever listens to you listens to Me.”

He Has Defeated Satan

“I saw Satan fall like lightning.”

He Rejoices in the Spirit

“Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit.”

He Alone Reveals the Father

“No one knows who the Father is except the Son.”

He Calls Us to Mercy

“Go and do likewise.”

He Is the One Thing Needed

“Only one thing is necessary.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the Lord who sends us, the Son who reveals the Father, and the One thing we need most.

XLVIII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

How many did Jesus send out, and how?

Seventy (some copies say seventy-two), two by two, ahead of Him.

Question 2

What did Jesus tell them to pray for?

That the Lord of the harvest would send out workers.

Question 3

What did Jesus mean by “lambs among wolves”?

They would face danger and depend completely on Him.

Question 4

Why would judgment be more bearable for Sodom, Tyre, and Sidon?

Because the towns that rejected Jesus had received greater light.

Question 5

Why did the seventy return with joy?

Demons submitted to them in Jesus' name.

Question 6

What did Jesus say was a greater reason to rejoice?

That their names are written in heaven.

Question 7

To whom does God reveal His truth?

To the humble, like little children, rather than the proud.

Question 8

What question did the expert in the law ask?

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” and then “Who is my neighbor?”

Question 9

Why is it surprising that the hero of the story is a Samaritan?

Jews and Samaritans despised each other, yet the Samaritan showed mercy when religious leaders did not.

Question 10

How did Jesus change the question about neighbors?

From “Who is my neighbor?” to “Who acted like a neighbor?”

Question 11

What did Mary choose that was better?

To sit at Jesus' feet and listen to Him.

Question 12

What should Luke 10 change about the way Christians live today?

Luke 10 should cause believers to live:

- Praying for workers in the harvest.
- Going where Jesus sends them.
- Bringing peace wherever they go.
- Rejoicing most that their names are written in heaven.
- Approaching God with humble, childlike faith.
- Showing mercy to anyone in need.
- Crossing barriers of race and religion to love others.
- Making time to sit at Jesus' feet.

XLIX. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Luke 10 asks several important questions.

Am I Praying for Workers?

And am I willing to be one?

Do I Bring Peace?

Into the homes I enter?

What Makes Me Rejoice?

Success, or my salvation?

Am I Humble Enough to Learn?

Like a little child?

Who Have I Passed By?

On the other side of the road?

Who Is My Samaritan?

Who am I tempted to look down on?

Am I Martha or Mary?

Distracted, or devoted?

Have I Chosen the Better Portion?

Do I make time to sit at Jesus' feet?

L. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Only One Thing Is Necessary”

Martha was busy.

There was food to prepare.

Guests to serve.

A house full of people.

Her work was good.

Her heart was generous.

But she was worried and upset.

Mary sat at Jesus' feet.

She listened.

She received.

Jesus said:

“Only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is better.”

The world is full of good things that demand our time.

Work.

Service.

Responsibilities.

But only one thing is truly necessary.

This creates a powerful principle.

The most important thing we can do for Jesus is to be with Jesus.

Principle:

Many things are good, but only one thing is necessary: time at Jesus' feet.

LI. FINAL APPLICATION

Luke Chapter 10 shows mission, mercy, and devotion.

Jesus sends out seventy.

He warns unrepentant towns.

He rejoices as Satan falls.

He thanks the Father for revealing truth to the humble.

He tells the story of a Samaritan who showed mercy.

And He praises Mary for choosing the better portion.

Luke 10 therefore reminds us:

Never stop praying for workers.

Never take God's blessings for granted.

Never rejoice more in success than in salvation.

Never pass by someone in need.

Never let busyness crowd out time with Jesus.

The church does not need people who only ask, “Who is my neighbor?”

It needs:

People who go into the harvest.

People who rejoice that their names are written in heaven.

People who show mercy to anyone in need.

And people who sit at Jesus' feet.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people the kingdom of God has come near.

Tell people that Satan is defeated.

Tell people that God reveals Himself to the humble.

Tell people that Jesus is the one thing they need.

And as you live:

Go.

Show mercy.

Rejoice in your salvation.

Sit at His feet.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the plentiful harvest.

Thank You for sending Your people into the world with good news.

Thank You that Satan is a defeated enemy.

Thank You that our names are written in heaven.

Thank You that You reveal Yourself to the humble.

Thank You for the mercy shown to us in Jesus.

Thank You for the better portion we find at His feet.

Forgive us when we have not prayed for workers.

Forgive us when we have rejoiced more in success than in salvation.

Forgive us when we have passed by people in need.

Forgive us when we have tried to limit our love.

Forgive us when we have been busy for You but not with You.

Send us into Your harvest.

Give us hearts of compassion like the Samaritan.

Help us cross every barrier to love others.

And draw us again and again to sit at the feet of Jesus.

“Only one thing is necessary.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“Only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” — Luke 10:42

Central Truth

Jesus sends His people into a plentiful harvest, calls them to show mercy to anyone in need, and invites them above all to sit at His feet, rejoicing that their names are written in heaven.

Luke 10 in One Sentence

Jesus sends out seventy messengers into the harvest, warns towns that reject Him, rejoices as Satan falls and the Father reveals truth to the humble, teaches through the Good Samaritan that love and mercy make a true neighbor, and praises Mary for choosing the one thing necessary, sitting at His feet.