

HELPING OTHERS

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: Lk. 10:30-37; Gal. 6:1,29,10. From Roy H. Enoch (03/20/1994).
- B. One of the best summaries of the life of X was given by Peter at Cornelius' house (Ac. 10:38).
 - 1. "...who went about doing good..." probably best describes the work of Jesus.
 - 2. The motivation of this service was not selfish, but loving. John 15:12-14
 - 3. Jesus had just described the disciples as branches in Him. John 15:8
 - 4. Jesus taught us to serve others, but gave an example of suffering w/o complaint (1Pet. 2:20-25).
- C. The example of X:
 - 1. Not doing what He wanted, but what we need (Mt. 26:39).
 - 2. His focus was doing the Father's will, and not His own.
 - 3. He came to serve rather than be served (Mt. 20:28).
- D. In this lesson, we want to look at Jesus' instruction on "loving our neighbor" and "Who is my neighbor?" in the lesson of the "good Samaritan."

I. JESUS GIVES EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO DID NOT HELP, AND ONE WHO DID.

- A. Sometimes, those most expected to help do not.
 - 1. The priest saw him, and "passed by on the other side" (Lk. 10:31).
 - a. David had divided the priests into 24 courses and they served in temple (1Chr. 24).
 - b. This priest may have been on his way to Jerusalem to serve in the temple, or leaving after his service on way home.
 - c. He may have thought himself too good to help a common person.
 - d. He "passed by on the other side."
 - 2. "Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side."
 - a. All priests were of the tribe of Levi, but not all Levites were priests.
 - b. The priests and Levites were supported by the tithes of the other tribes because they did not receive a land inheritance like the other tribes, only cities.
 - c. The Levites were to teach the Law and judge the people.
 - d. He also "passed by on the other side."
 - 3. Sometimes today more is expected of the elders, deacons and preacher than other members in helping others.
 - a. Some expect them to do all of THEIR studying, teaching and visiting.
 - b. Some even expect others to do their chores and everyday responsibilities.
 - c. Some think only of what others should do for them and not what they should do for others.
 - d. All Xians have responsibilities to work and serve:
 - 1) We must study God's word for ourselves (Ac. 17:11).
 - 2) We must worship God ourselves.
 - 3) We must each give as God has prospered us. (Jesus said that a man who is not faithful with a little will not be faithful in much.)
- B. Jesus describes one who is an example of serving.
 - 1. A certain Samaritan "came where he was.
 - 2. "And when he saw him, HE HAD COMPASSION ON HIM." V. 33
 - a. No one can really be a X-like w/o being moved w/compassion by those in need.
 - b. The priest and Levite may have had curiosity about the fellow Jew's plight, but no compassion.
 - 3. Compassion compels us to serve.
 - a. It comes from genuine love for our fellow man.
 - b. Love divides and thus multiplies.

- c. He personally ministered to his needs (Lk. 10:34).
- d. He spent his own money on the stranger (Lk. 10:35).
- e. He had shown himself trustworthy; "I will repay you."
- 4. Jesus makes the application: "Go and do likewise" (v37).

II. PAUL INSTRUCTS AND ENCOURAGES US TO HELP OTHERS (Gal. 6:1-2; 9-10).

- A. Our greatest need for help is spiritual.
 - 1. "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass..."
 - a. We are to overcome and bless others (Heb. 10:23-25).
 - b. But some allow trespasses to overcome them.
 - 2. "...you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."
 - a. It takes strength to lift up the fallen.
 - b. It takes self-inspection to avoid the same danger.
 - c. It takes perception to help lovingly w/ tenderness.
 - d. Restoration is to be desired rather than condemnation.
- B. "Let us not grow wear while doing good,...do not lose heart"(v9).
 - 1. Reaping comes only after diligent preparation, sowing and cultivation.
 - 2. The harvest cannot be rushed, w/out loss and damage.
- C. "...as we have opportunity, let us do good to all,.."
 - 1. "Redeem the time for the days are evil."

CONCLUSION.

- A. Always abound in the work of the Lord (1Cor. 15:58).
- B. Does any here today who need to cast the mote out of own eye?
- C. We invite you as we stand and offer the Lord's invitation.