

The Gospel of Luke

a verse-by-verse study

Session 18

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



Simply teaching the Bible, simply

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CHAPTER 10

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



Simply teaching the Bible, simply

25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law?
how readest thou?

Luke 10:25-26

- Lawyer: an expert in the Jewish Law
- “What single thing should I do...”

The Perfect Law

“It is a great mercy that we have the law written, that we have it thereby reduced to certainty, and that thereby it is capable of spreading the further, and lasting the longer.

Having it written, it is our duty to read it, to read it with understanding, and to treasure up what we read, so that when there is occasion, we may be able to tell what is written in the law, and how we read.

To this we must appeal; by this we must try doctrines and end disputes; this must be our oracle, our touchstone, our rule, our guide. What is written in the law? How do we read? if there be light in us, it will have regard to this light.”

John Gill

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

Luke 10:27-28

- The Lawyer's answer is a summary of the Ten Commandments
 - The two tablets of stone effectively dividing the Law into these two themes
- Quoting from Deut 6:5 and Lev 19:18

The Right Answer!

We must love God with all our hearts, must look upon him as the best of beings, in himself most amiable, and infinitely perfect and excellent; as one whom we lie under the greatest obligations to, both in gratitude and interest. We must prize him, and value ourselves by our elation to him; must please ourselves in him, and devote ourselves entirely to him. Our love to him must be sincere, hearty, and fervent; it must be a superlative love, a love that is as strong as death, but an intelligent love, and such as we can give a good account of the grounds and reasons of. It must be an entire love; he must have our whole souls, and must be served with all that is within us. We must love nothing besides him, but what we love for him and in subordination to him.

The Right Answer!

We must love our neighbours as ourselves, which we shall easily do, if we, as we ought to do, love God better than ourselves. We must wish well to all and ill to none; must do all the good we can in the world and no hurt, and must fix it as a rule to ourselves to do to others as we would they should do to us; and this is to love our neighbour as ourselves.

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

Luke 10:27-28

- They both agreed on the answer, but Jesus takes it further...
- “This do continually, and you shall live”

Who do you say I am?

“His care to avoid the conviction which was now ready to fasten upon him. When Christ said, This do, and thou shalt live, he began to be aware that Christ intended to draw from him an acknowledgment that he had not done this, and therefore an enquiry what he should do, which way he should look, to get his sins pardoned”

The Impossible Law!

¹⁹ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Romans 3:19

The Impossible Law!

¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

¹¹ But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

¹² And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Galatians 3:10-12

The Impossible Law!

22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Galatians 3:22-24

29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus,
And who is my neighbour?

Luke 10:29

- *“Many ask good questions with a design rather to justify themselves than to inform themselves, rather proudly to show what is good in them than humbly to see what is bad in them”. – Gill*
- *“Where [the Jew] saith, ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbour’, he excepts all Gentiles, for they are not our neighbours, but those only that are of our own nation and religion.” – Lightfoot*

The Good Samaritan



³⁰ And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

Luke 10:30

- The Gospel is concealed in this account...
- Some commentators see this as the retelling of an actual event that had taken place.
- Certainly, the Lawyer does not object to fact that the 'hero' of the story is a despised Samaritan!
- It makes the account even more compelling if indeed it is based on a true story!

The Gospel

- We were in a place of blessing and God's presence
 - (represented by Jerusalem in this account)
- We ended up descending to a cursed place
 - (represented by Jericho here)
- We were robbed by an enemy and left for dead
- The Law and religion offered no help
- Then One despised and rejected of men came our way
- He rescued us, bound our wounds took it upon Himself to pay for our restoration
- He entrusted us to the care and safekeeping of another whilst we remain in this temporary accommodation – all our needs are taken care of!
- He promised to return, our gratitude will be great!

31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

Luke 10:31

- Many of the courses of the priests had their residence in Jericho, and came up to Jerusalem, when it was their turn to officiate there, and then returned to Jericho upon completion of their service
- The priest represents all religion
- There is the hope of help and restoration, but it cannot perform it
- The best religion can do is leave you in the same condition you were found!
- But how sad that someone who should have been full of virtue was so uncompassionate!

32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

Luke 10:32

- The Levite represents the Law
- Note the statement “*and looked on him*”
- The Law knows our condition...
- ...yet “*passes by on the other side*”
- There is a gulf between the Law and Salvation
- As with religion, it cannot redeem fallen humanity

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

Luke 10:33-34

- He set him on his own beast, and went on foot himself, and brought him to an inn.
- This is what Christ has done for us!
- He carries us and brings us safely to the place of refuge
 - How utterly useless it would have been for the injured man to try and do some of this himself!

The Samaritans

- In 722 B.C. Assyria took the Northern kingdom of Israel captive to Assyria
- The king of Assyria then moved foreigners into the land of Israel to look after the land
- But the Land was God's!
- So, God sent lions among them that became a real problem for the king of Assyria
- In response, the king sent a priest back to the Land from among the exiled 'Jewish' captives with the intent of teaching the new inhabitants of the Land about the God of the Land!

20 And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

21 For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

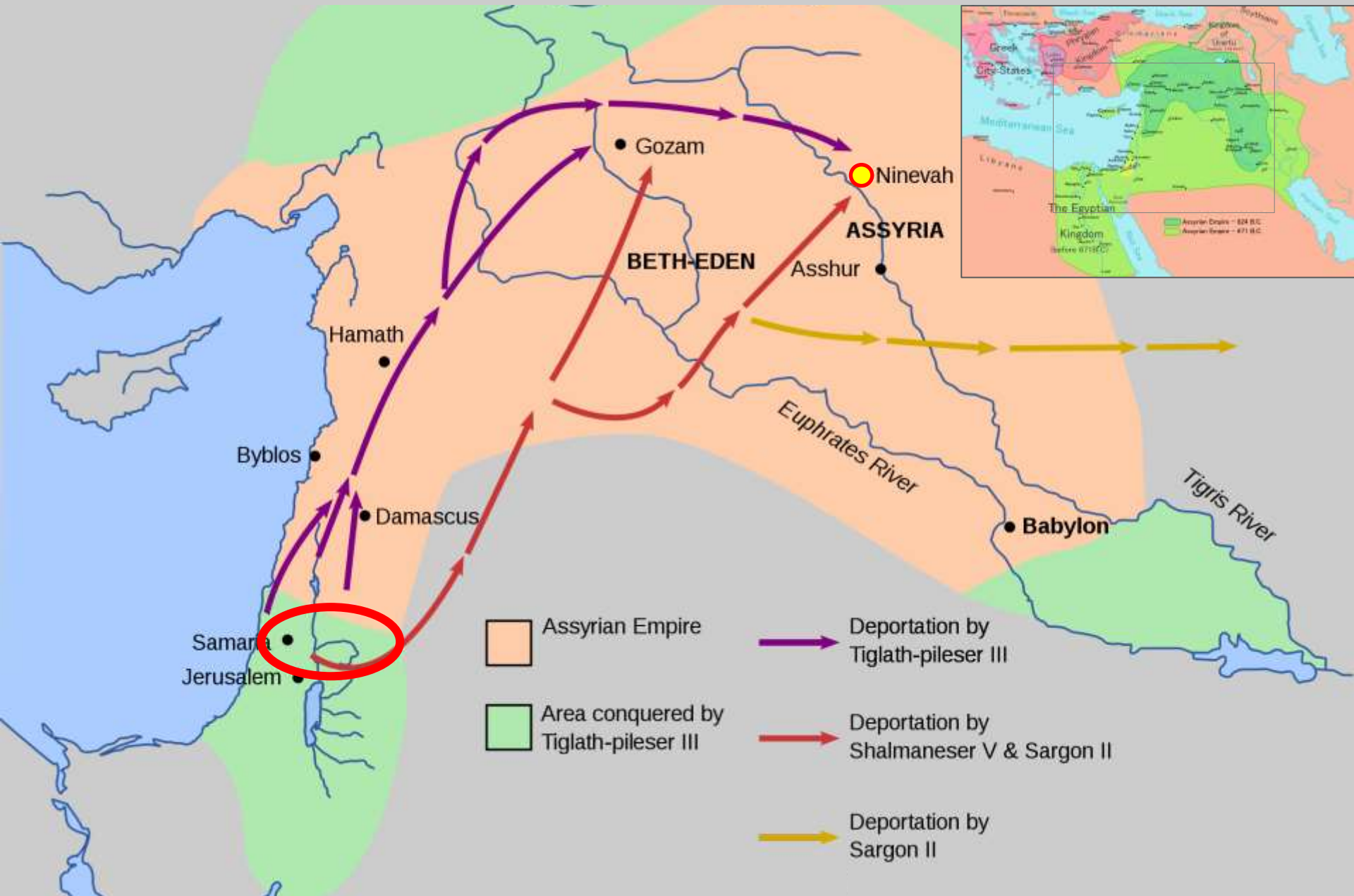
2 Kings 17:20-21

22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them;

23 Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

2 Kings 17:22-23

The Assyrian Empire



24 And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.

2 Kings 17:24

25 And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD **sent lions** among them, which slew some of them.

26 Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath **sent lions among them,** and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land.

2 Kings 17:25-26

British Museum - London







Room 10

Royal Lion Hunts ?

Lion-hunting, in Assyria, was the sport of kings. The sculptures in this room, carved about 645-635 BC, mostly show the sporting exploits of the last great Assyrian king, Ashurbanipal. The hunt scenes, full of tension and realism, rank among the finest achievements of Assyrian art.

Assyrian Pest Control!



Who is hunting whom?

Direction chariot travelling

27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land.

28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

2 Kings 17:27-28

29 Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt.

32 So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places.

33 They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.

34 Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel;

35 With whom the LORD had made a covenant, and charged them saying, Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them:

2 Kings 17:34-35

⁴¹ So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.

2 Kings 17:41

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

Luke 10:35

- Note that the robbed and injured man had nothing to pay for his sojourn, restoration...
- Nor had he anything with which to repay the Samaritan
- This was entirely the work of Grace
- Note also that the Samaritan is coming back!
- When He does, He will set the record straight!

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Luke 10:36-37

- We are to love the unlovely!
- *God continually introduces us to people for whom we have no affinity, and unless we are worshipping God, the most natural thing to do is to treat them heartlessly, to give them a text like the jab of a spear, or leave them with a rapped-out counsel of God and go. A heartless Christian must be a terrible grief to Our Lord. Are we in the direct line of the intercession of our Lord and of the Holy Spirit? - OC*

38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

Luke 10:38-40

Our Best vs His Rest

“If we undertake work for God and get out of touch with Him, the sense of responsibility will be overwhelmingly crushing; but if we roll back on God that which He has put upon us, He takes away the sense of responsibility by bringing in the realization of Himself.

Many workers have gone out with high courage and fine impulses, but with no intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ, and before long they are crushed. ”

Oswald Chambers

Our Best vs His Rest

“The good is the enemy of the best”

“We have to get rid of this notion – “Am I of any use?” and make up our minds that we are not, and we may be near the truth. It is never a question of being of use, but of being of value to God Himself.”

Oswald Chambers

Our Best vs His Rest

“When we try to live our lives in our own strength, we ultimately fail. And if we don’t fail, we fall very short of God’s purposes for us. When we operate in the flesh, three things are always true:

- (1) we will always lack the power of the Spirit, and we’ll suffer from fatigue;
- (2) we will always lack the vision of the Spirit so we’ll suffer from frustration and
- (3) we will always lack the sustaining ministry of the Spirit so we’ll suffer from failure.

Our Best vs His Rest

“Do these consequences sound familiar? You will always suffer these results when you tackle life in your own strength. But when tragedy strikes you turn to God. When you feel helpless, inadequate and weak, the Spirit of God gives you strength. All of a sudden you realize something dynamic is going on that you have never experienced before. It’s not your power, it’s God power. The apostle Paul admits that if it takes weakness to get God’s power in his life, he’s better off weak than strong. Because when you are weak, then you are strong.”

Dr David Jeremiah

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Luke 10:41-42

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To be continued...

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The background of the entire image is a photograph of the HMS Victory, a three-masted sailing ship, docked in Portsmouth harbor. The ship is seen from a low angle, emphasizing its massive scale. Its hull is painted with alternating yellow and black horizontal stripes. The ship's complex rigging, including masts, yards, and ropes, is visible against a clear sky. In the background, the red-brick buildings of the harbor are partially visible.

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