

Lesson 12 Outline - Community & Involvement: God Cares, Do I?

I. Introduction – The Greatest and Second Greatest Commandment

- A. Matthew 22:34-40 – "And a second is like it...love your neighbor as yourself."
- B. Luke 10:25-29 – "He wanted to justify himself, so he asked 'Who is my neighbor?'"
- C. Story of the good Neighbor – Jesus didn't answer the question "Who is my neighbor?" but instead told us what a good neighbor is
- D. Who are the needy? – poor, orphans, widows, sick, prisoners, outcasts, unpopular, neglected, left out, homely, last – The needy are great in a sphere we neglect
- E. Seeing others as God sees them and recognizing that they have eternal significance
- F. Jonah and Nineveh - Jonah running from the face of God – "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city?"
- G. Transforming Culture - "How Christianity Changed the World"
 - 1. William Wilberforce –Abolished slavery through a deep sense of calling, band of like-minded brothers, and sustained public persuasion
 - 2. We are in good company - Hebrews 11- Cloud of Witnesses
- H. "What do I do?" – Get your calling from the One who made you, the One who gifted you. Continue to gaze upon the face of God, pursue Him and continually be transformed into the very image of Christ. May God's truth be a fire in your bones.

II. Who is my neighbor? – Radical design of this sphere: Christ, a neighbor, the needy

III. Seeking the Heart of God

- A. God's heart for the needy and lowly – He saves the poor and lifts up the lowly – Who is this God?
- B. Foundational Presuppositions - God is and He has revealed Himself to us
- C. What is it about the nature of God that causes Him to reveal Himself to us?
 - 1. Isaiah 65:1-2 "To a nation that did not call on my name I said, "Here am I, Here I am. All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people ..."
 - 2. Matthew 23:37 "... I have longed to gather your children together..."

IV. "Tapeinos" – The humble heart of God

- A. Matthew 11:28-29 "For I am gentle and humble in heart" - Jesus washes the feet of his disciples and in John 14:4-9 tells them "Anyone who has seen me, has seen the father." – Man of steel and velvet
- B. Psalm 35:10 - My whole being will exclaim "Who is like you, O God!"

V. Involvement – God's Involvement and Ours