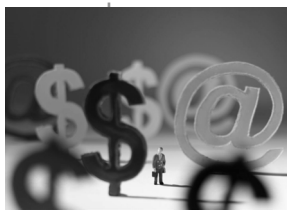


Love Thy Neighbor in Service

Holding On Too Tightly



"If anyone wants to be first, he must be last and servant of all."
(Mark 9:35 NIV)

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Jesus' statements always seemed to turn upside down the order of life and the way in which we view priorities. We so often work tirelessly to be the first on earth. The world, our society, television, radio and almost everywhere you look or hear says the more stuff we have the more value we have as a person.

Look around where you live. In Atlanta the houses just keep getting bigger, the cars bigger and the technological devices fancier. It is a chase with a silly end. Everything you accumulate here will some day be taken from you. What will you be left with? In one of the

Love Thy Neighbor

Program Services

Christian Counseling

Telephone Resource Services

Shelter

Transportation

Food

Emergency Cash Assistance

Ask how you can help!

more encounters in the bible Jesus talks to the rich young ruler.

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. No one is good-except God alone.

*You know the commandments: "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your mother and father." "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus looked at him and **loved him.***

"One thing you lack," he said. "Go sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow me."
(Mark 10:18 NIV)

That statement puts incredible pressure on those living in the US. We are the richest nation (if not the heaviest in debt) in the world. We have tons of stuff. One part of the narrative however gives us a deeper insight into Jesus. The statement: Jesus looked at him and loved him. How in the world did Jesus love the man just before telling him to give everything away? Jesus knew the truth. We do not stay here but are only on the earth a short period. We spend eternity in another realm (until Jesus comes back to create the new earth). Throughout His ministry Jesus tells us to give what we have here away in order to store up treasure in heaven for eternity. The most difficult thing about the story is that Jesus tells the

man to give everything away just as he tells us to be servant to all. The commands are so absolute. Don't I get to keep anything? Do I have to serve people I don't like? From the place many of us stand in life, we feel like the rich young ruler and just want to walk away. There is however another way.

There's Another Way?

Instead of simply walking away because of the apparent size of the commands, take on what you can. The Christian journey is a walk and not a run. In the homeless population we serve, the fear of change is incredibly evident. The offer is made: Come get clean physically, get food, get your system free of drugs/alcohol, come to know Jesus and face your own personal challenges.

Often the amount of change is simply too daunting, and the individual remains on the street in an incredibly difficult life. Ironically, in the homeless we see ourselves. An offer is made (give away what you cannot keep for something that will last forever) and yet we are also too afraid to move. A less daunting way does exist

(Continued on page 2)

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Matthew 22:39

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Take The First Step!

(Continued from page 1)

and is the path most all Christians travel. Take the first small step!

I do not know anyone who has given away everything. I do however know people who give away a large amount of their time, talent and treasure for the Lord. Ask anyone you know serving in that way and you will find most started small. They were uncomfortable in the level of serving the Lord so they increased wherever they could. The increase does not have to be dramatic it simply has to be more. The idea seems incredibly slow. However, this is exactly the way the Lord works in nature.

Have you ever lived long enough in one neighborhood to watch a plant change from a small sapling to a towering shade tree? Jesus actually describes heaven that way.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a



largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

(Mathew 13:31 NIV)

The simple question is:

Will you plant the mustard seed and begin the movement from where you currently rest?

If you have a desire to really come to know the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit in a real and true way, there are simple steps to take. Email me at the address above and I can send you the information.

What can you do?

We need your prayers! It is the most important thing you can do for the ministry.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
(James 5:16 NIV)

LTN is committed to spreading the Gospel by Christ's example to "love thy neighbor as thyself." Matthew 22:39. To this end, LTN has designed programs with the purpose of helping clients build a relationship of faith in God, regain their dignity and eventually, regain their self-sufficiency. Contact us to learn more about the services and programs.

Love Thy Neighbor In Service is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation (IRS#17053159005021). Gifts are tax deductible in accordance with tax law.

mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. "Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the

We can now send our newsletter via email if you prefer. Should you desire to receive our newsletter electronically, please send me your email address. Also, take a look at our website to review our mission statement, success stories, history, archived newsletters and more.

May God bless you!

John Chapman, Jr.