



Jesus Encounters

Love's Expert

Sunday 19th July 2026 | www.leicesterchurch.uk

"Go and Do Likewise" - Luke 10:37

- + Knowing God's heart changes how we treat people
- + Love is more than knowledge - it is action
- + Compassion is both generous and wise
- + Christ calls His disciples to "go and do likewise"

Luke 10:25 - 37 | The Expert & The Good Samaritan

1 - Know God's Heart, Not Just His Law

- The expert knew the Law (Deut 6:5; Lev 19:18, 33-34) but wanted to justify himself rather than examine his own heart
- Jesus shifts the focus from knowing the command to living it
- The Ten Commandments summarised in Exodus 20:1-17:
 - No. 1-4 focus to God; No. 5-10 focus on other people
- Throughout Scripture, God reveals His heart for the poor, the stranger, widows & orphans | James 1:27 - This is true religion
- Love for God is proved by love for people - 1 John 4:19-21
- We can't truly love our neighbour unless we know the **God who loves everyone** as Creator, Father, Redeemer & Shepherd

2 - Love in Action

- Act justly and love mercy and walk humbly before your God - Micah 6:8 (c.740-700 BC)
- (1) Priest and (2) Levite *knew* the Scriptures, yet walked past
- They ought to have acted better towards a fellow Israelite
- In the parable, the (3) Samaritan crossed cultural, religious and ethnic barriers, and gave his time, money and care
- Love is a verb, an action word - it always costs something
- A brother or sister in Christ is recognised not simply by church membership, but by loving actions:
 - Strangers < Acquaintances < Friends < Brothers

3 - Compassion with Wisdom

- The Samaritan met the immediate need, then entrusted the man to an innkeeper [Not to his own home | wisdom]
- Sometimes I don't feel like 'being a Samaritan'. Remember: The GOLDEN RULE (Matt. 7:12): Treat others as you would want to be treated | Sun and Rain for all - Matthew 5:43-48
- Compassion is not the absence of wisdom (seek advice)
- Today's refugee, asylum, welfare, and social care debates remind us to distinguish between:
 - our personal responsibility to love our neighbour,
 - and a government's responsibility to administer justice and public policy
- Christians may disagree on policy while agreeing that every person bears God's image and deserves compassion
- Hope Worldwide - A Christian charity for social good

4 - Go and Do Likewise

- Jesus does not say, "Know likewise," but "Do likewise"
- Knowing and doing are two different things
- Pray this week for opportunities to show Christ-like kindness - not merely opinions as 'keyboard warriors'
- Show kindness by example - in our families, our schools, our church and our community
- The Clapham Sect, Holy Trinity Church, Clapham (1787-1833) Knowing God's heart led to loving action by MPs William Wilberforce, Henry Thornton, and countless ordinary Christians that ++influenced Britain and the world by:
 - Abolishing the slave trade and slavery
 - Reforming prisons and education
 - Supporting Bible translation and global mission
 - Caring for the poor and vulnerable
- The Corollary: The Sheep & the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

Questions to Consider

- + Am I seeking to justify myself, or to know God's heart?
- + Who has God placed in my immediate path this week?
- + Is my love visible in practical action?

Communion Song: God Loves Everyone (2024) - Leon Bridges