



# JESUS TEACHES US...

## LESSON ONE: To love

**John 13:34** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

You can only learn if you want to be taught. In **John 16:13** Jesus says: "*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.*"

God sent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost so we could receive power to speak out the truth of the scriptures and demonstrate God's love to others.

**Read Luke 10**, where Jesus was asked by an expert in the law what he should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asked him what was written in the law and how he read it. The man's response was: "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind', and your neighbour as yourself*". When Jesus said he had answered the question, the expert then asked that simple, but crucial question: "*And who is my neighbour?*"

The answer was the parable of the Good Samaritan. **Read verses 30-37 again.**

- Two religious leaders had walked by, ignoring the battered man lying by the side of the road. Are we shocked by their seemingly callous attitude?
- Before we pass judgement, let us ask ourselves if we display similar attitudes to people in our society today. Who are you tempted to ignore? Now ask yourself why that is. The answer may not be comfortable in the light of what Jesus taught.
- Jesus uses the picture of a Samaritan, someone detested by the Jews, to provide the help this poor man needed. He went the extra mile, not only seeing to his wounds but taking him to an inn and paying the cost of his stay there.

Jesus didn't tell parables to entertain the people, but to teach important lessons.

Verse 27 is a summary of Old Testament Law found in **Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18**.

If we are to learn the lesson Jesus is teaching, that we must LOVE, it may mean we have to re-examine some of our views and attitudes.

Jesus demonstrated his love in many ways such as, healing the sick, raising the dead and feeding the hungry.

Matthew 14:14 tells us: *Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.* There are so many examples from healing Peter's mother-in-law, blind Bartimaeus, the daughter of Jairus, the servant of the Roman Centurion to name but a few. The meaning of compassion is this: **to recognise the suffering of others and then take action to help. Compassion embodies a tangible expression of love for those who are suffering.**

- Do we have compassion for others? How do we express this?
- Matthew 24:40 says: *"Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* It is well worth reading the full chapter as it contains so many lessons for us.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 13**

This is a popular passage, often read at weddings. Read it through twice and try to take in what it is telling us. Paul lists all the many spiritual gifts we may have but in verse 2 says that if we don't have love then we are nothing. The last verse tells us that of the three essential attributes: faith, hope, and love, if we don't have love, we have nothing. The reason for this is found in 1 John 4:8 *"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."*

### **Read 1 John 4:7-19**

- Think how our lives could look if we followed the teaching of this chapter. Pray that we would love God, love ourselves and love others.
- Would this change the way we act towards others? Would it change the way we view ourselves? Would it change the way we view God?
- Think how our families might look if we followed this teaching.
- Think how our church might look if we put this into practice.

It's not easy to love everyone and it's not easy for everyone to love us. However, 1 Peter 4:8 says: *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*

Remember all those people who irritate you, or you think you cannot learn to like: **GOD LOVES THEM AS MUCH AS HE LOVES YOU!**

### **Read Philippians 2:1-11**

Jesus loved us so much that he gave up everything in heaven, came to the earth and humbled himself to die on the cross.

The words of a hymn written nearly 100 years ago but portraying eternal truths says:

Here is love, vast as the ocean  
Loving kindness as the flood  
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom  
Shed for us His precious blood  
Who His love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing His praise?  
He can never be forgotten  
Throughout Heaven's eternal days  
On the mount of crucifixion  
Fountains opened deep and wide  
Through the floodgates of God's mercy  
Flowed a vast and gracious tide  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers  
Poured incessant from above  
And Heaven's peace and perfect justice  
Kissed a guilty world in love.

*Colossians 3:14 "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony."*

**Let our prayer be that we fulfil this commandment of Jesus:  
So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just  
as I have loved you, you should love each other. (John 13:34)**

