

THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Three Mindsets and Three Resulting Attitudes

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We must love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves. There is no commandment greater than these (Mk. 12:30-31).

In Lk. 10:25-37, the Lord shared the Parable of the Good Samaritan in order to answer the question of the expert of the Law who asked him, "Who is my neighbor?"

In the story, a man was attacked by robbers on his way to Jericho. He was found beaten up, stripped from his clothes, and almost dying. The victim represents our lost and unsaved neighbor, who in God's sight is spiritually naked, beaten up, and in a helpless condition.

Three Kinds of Mindsets and Three Attitudes

I. The Mind of a Thief (v. 30)

- His Attitude and Mindset: What is yours is mine, and I will take it!
- The Thief represents Satan (Jn. 10:10). He invades our lives and steals our joy, faith, love, and usefulness to God. He kills us and brings our souls to Hell. He destroys our character, testimonies, families and sanity.
- Although Satan is coming to destroy us, when we know God, he cannot do it for we are always equipped to fight and to overcome.
- We must not let Satan steal our faith, love, joy, families, souls, health, character, testimonies, and our commitments and usefulness to the Lord.

II. The Mind of a Priest and a Levite (v. 31-32)

- Their Attitude and Mindset: What is mine is mine, and I will keep it!
- The Priests and the Levites were the most obliged and expected to show mercy and love to the victim due to the nature of their job and ministry.
- They represent people who are devoted to God like Church Leaders, Priests, Christians, etc.

- They are the first people expected to show mercy to those in need.
- In the New Testament, believers are called a royal priesthood, hence we are priests (1 Pt. 2:5). As such, we are most obliged to do good works.
- We usually mind our own business. Like the Priests and Levites, we often play blind to the cries of our neighbor. They ignored the victim and changed direction for they probably needed to attend to urgent matters.
- We should follow the example of Jesus, who always finds time for someone in need. We should be good examples and testify with our lives that we are first in loving one another.
- Reflection: How many wounded do you see around? Do you not stop to help them for you have some place to be?
- The Lord wants us to love others as we love ourselves. We are needed by the Lord to be His instruments to pay attention to others and bring Jesus to them.

III. The Mind of a Samaritan (v. 33-35)

- His Attitude and Mindset: What is mine is yours, and I will share it!
- A Samaritan is someone a Jew does not expect to help for the Jews and the Samaritans were enemies (Jn. 4:7-9).
- It is a perfect picture of soul-winning when the Good Samaritan went to the bleeding man and bandaged his wounds. It implied love and concern for the hurting, poor, sick, and forsaken. His pouring of oil and wine signifies being filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).
- The Good Samaritan did not just give the victim first aid but he brought him into an inn. The inn represents the Church or the Lord's Flock, a refuge for the lost and a place of rest.
- The Samaritan in the parable represents Jesus. The Samaritan denied himself comfort and walked extra miles for his neighbor (2 Cor. 8:9).

Which mindset and attitude do you have? Is it "All is mine, and I will keep it!" or "What is mine is yours, and I will share it!"?

Remember that you were saved because God sent a Good Samaritan, who brought you to the Lord's Flock.

There are people outside who are lost and in need of a Good Samaritan. We can always enlighten them by sharing the Word of God. We need to go out and be bold in sharing the Good News to them (Rom. 1:14-16, 2 Tim. 1:7-8).

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