



He Is Our Righteousness

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

Session 4:
"Go and Do Likewise"

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Luke 10:37

1. Rather than a single act of neighborliness, what does Jesus' command require?

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2. Read 1 John 4:13–21. What connections do you see between our parable and this passage from 1 John?

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not satisfy the Law itself, it takes comfort that He fulfills it and gives and imparts to the heart His fullness and strength. In this way He always remains our righteousness, redemption, holiness, etc. [cf. 1 COR 1:30].²

CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

1. How does Jesus answer the man's questions about salvation and the requirements of the Law? Or, to ask it another way, how does Jesus teach the lawyer that he is asking the wrong questions?

2. Two common misunderstandings about justification are: (1) "Whether it's my works or my faith, it doesn't matter — in the end, the deciding factor in my salvation is still *me*"; and (2) "Because I'm saved by grace, I don't have to do anything for anybody. I have no neighbor but Jesus, and I know He always loves me." How does the parable of the Good Samaritan challenge these two misunderstandings? (The two concluding Luther quotes should help here.)

3. How does the message of the parable as presented here impact the way you read the following passage, the story about Martha and Mary? Read Luke 10:38–42. Does that episode raise similar questions about the relationship

We let Luther have the final word among us:

This is our chief article, the doctrine of faith, which tells us that we cannot help ourselves, nor can any works or teaching of the Law, but He must begin it in us. He does not drive us with the Law if we perceive our sins and misery (for that belongs to the secure spirits such as this scribe, who do not want to be called sinners), but He sincerely takes pity on us, befriends and comforts us through His Word, Himself binds up the wounded, puts us on His animal, nurses and tends to us. He Himself had to carry out our redemption by Himself, take our place, and bear on His body our sins and need. He Himself also proclaims this to us and gives us the comforting words through which we are bandaged and healed.¹

And again:

Look, this is the teaching and power of the Gospel and the treasure by which we are saved. It brings us to the point of also beginning to fulfill the Law. Where the great, unfathomable love and kindness of Christ are known and believed, love both for God and for our neighbor also flows from it. Through such knowledge and consolation the Holy Spirit moves the heart to be friendly to God, gladly to praise and thank Him as we should, to guard against sin and disobedience, and willingly to submit to serving and helping everyone. Wherever it still feels its weakness, it fights against its flesh and the devil by calling upon God, etc. Thus the heart always lifts itself up to Christ in faith; if it does

¹ LW 79:62 §40. Cf. Luther 53 §40.

² LW 79:63 §43. Cf. Luther 54 §43.

between serving God and being served by Him? How do the two passages teach mutually reinforcing messages about the “one thing necessary”?

4. What have you learned about the doctrine of justification by grace through faith from this study?
