

## Church In the Community -7 Jesus Desired Their Good

(Pass out verses to read.)

**Matthew 23:37** *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”*

### How do we understand this verse?

**1 Corinthians 5:11** (NKJV) *But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.*

**Matthew 18:17** (NKJV) *And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.*

### Jonah in Nineveh

**Jonah 3:4–10** (NKJV) *And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”<sup>5</sup> So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.<sup>6</sup> Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.<sup>7</sup> And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water.<sup>8</sup> But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.<sup>9</sup> Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?<sup>10</sup> Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.*

**Ezekiel 33:11** (NKJV) *Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’*

**\*Acts 3:19** (NKJV) *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

### The “Anyway” Principle

**Matthew 8:1–4** *When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.<sup>2</sup> And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.<sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”*

“Millions upon millions of human souls ready to perish, bound in chains of ignorance and sin, have never so much as heard of Christ’s love for them. Were our condition and theirs to be reversed, what would we desire them to do for us? All this, so far as lies in our power, we are under the most solemn obligation to do for them. Christ’s rule of life, by which every one of us must stand or fall in the judgment, is, ‘Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.’ Matthew 7:12.” - Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 640.

**Matthew 5:43–48** (NKJV) *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,<sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.<sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?<sup>47</sup> And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?<sup>48</sup> Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”*

**Luke 6:27–28** (NKJV) *“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,<sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.*

**\*Luke 6:35–36** (NKJV) *But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.<sup>36</sup> Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.*

**Luke 23:34** *Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots.*

**Mark 16:7** (ESV) *But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”*

**John 21:15–17** (NKJV) <sup>15</sup> So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “*Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?*” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “*Feed My lambs.*” <sup>16</sup> He said to him again a second time, “*Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?*” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “*Tend My sheep.*” <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “*Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?*” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “*Feed My sheep.*”

### Love Never Fails

**Luke 10:27–28** So he answered and said, “ ‘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 neighbor as yourself.’ ” <sup>28</sup> And He said to him, “*You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.*”

**1 John 4:7–9** (NKJV) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

**1 Corinthians 13:1–3** (NKJV) Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

**Daniel 7:25** (NKJV) He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.

**\*John 16:2** (NKJV) *They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.*

### The Second Touch

**Mark 8:18** (NKJV) *Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?* Right after this statement...

**Mark 8:22–26** (NKJV) Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. <sup>23</sup> So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. <sup>24</sup> And he looked up and said, “I see men like trees, walking.” <sup>25</sup> Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. <sup>26</sup> Then He sent him away to his house, saying, “*Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town.*”

### The Other-centered Church

**Philippians 2:3** (NKJV) Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

**Romans 12:10** (NKJV) Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

**\*1 Thessalonians 4:9** (NKJV) But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

**1 Peter 1:22** (NKJV) Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

**Hebrews 13:1** (NKJV) Let brotherly love continue.