

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Luke 10:29-37**  
**Lesson #28**  
**Being Fully Human**  
**04/05/2020**

## The immediate context of the parable of the good Samaritan.

“25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, **Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?**” 26 And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?” 27 And he answered and said, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.*” 28 And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; **do this, and you will live.**”



- Is the Gospel a call to LOVE God and all those He loves?
- Are the Great Commission & the Great Commandment the same or related?

1

### Mark 12

“28 And one of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, **“What commandment is the foremost of all?”** 29 Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘*Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; 30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.*’ 31 The second is this, ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” 32 And the scribe said to Him, “Right, Teacher, You have truly stated that *He is One; and there is no one else besides Him;* 33 and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as himself, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” 34 And when Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, **“You are not far from the kingdom of God.”**

2

“If human beings do the works demanded by God, they can legitimately claim that they have fulfilled what God demanded and should receive the reward of salvation.”

**Tom Schreiner**

(Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)



3

## The Scripture speaks of the Kingdom of God as a “restoration”.

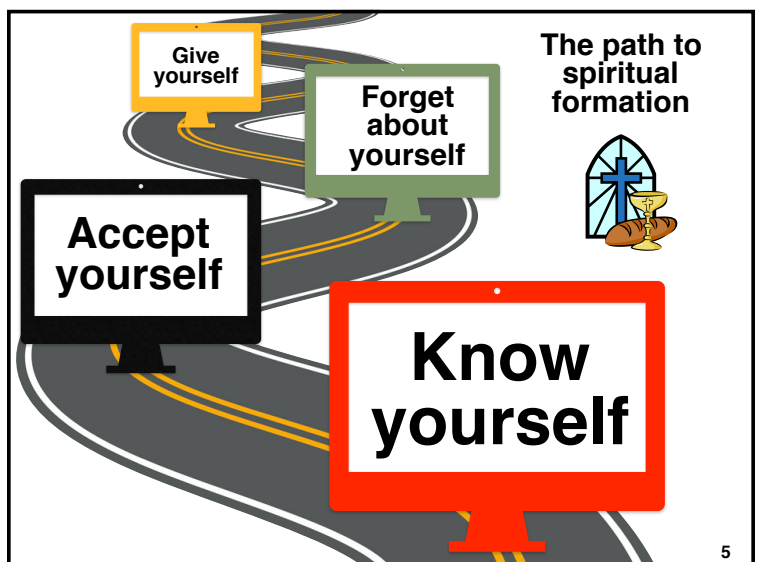
- Could this restoration be a recovery of what was **lost in the sin of Adam**?

### Romans 5:17

“For if by the transgression of the one (Adam), death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”

- Could this be the restoration of our (pre Fall) **humanity**?

4



5



"The greatest challenge of our age is not emerging technology or climate change but understanding **what it means to be human.**"

**John Naisbitt**  
Author of "Megatrends"

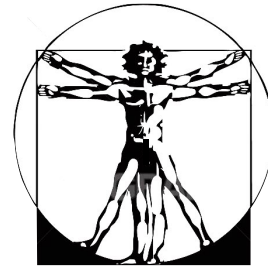


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What does it mean to be human?

**Dignity**

**Is Jesus a model of humanity?**



**Depravity**

**Are we afraid of ourselves?**

Is the Law simply a call **to be human?**



7

"I have never denied the deity of Christ nor of any human."

**This is a statement about both Jesus and humanity.**

**Paul Tillich**



8

Natural evolution is a model that explains human **selfish behavior.**

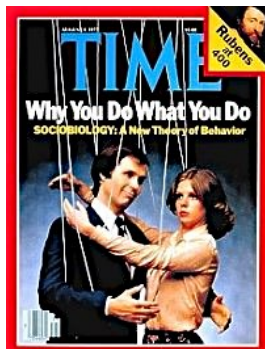
**It struggles to explain human selfless behavior.**

**Signs of our humanity are irrepressible.**

9

"Conflict between parents and children is biologically inevitable. Children are born deceitful. All human acts — even saving a stranger from drowning or donating a million dollars to the poor — may be ultimately selfish."

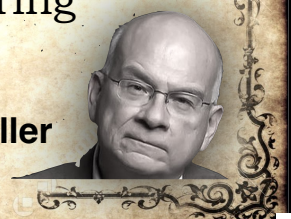
**Morality and justice, far from being the triumphant product of human progress, evolved from man's past, and are securely rooted in the genes."**



10

"God does not give us proofs but clues to the mysteries of the universe, the meaning of life, the nature of suffering and hope"

**Tim Keller**



11

"29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, **"And who is my neighbor?"**"

***The scribe reasoned:***

- ✓ It is "easy" to love a god that I make in my own image or the image of my culture.
- ✓ It is "harder" to love a broken world and the broken people in it.
- ✓ If he is going to pass this test he must narrow the field of social responsibility.
- Those who live "under the Law" tend to appeal to technicalities to make the Law manageable.
- The parable is to answer the question - **What does it mean to love God and my neighbor?**

12

"30 Jesus replied and said, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. 31 And by chance a certain **priest** was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 And likewise a **Levite** also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side."

- The Jerusalem Jews did not respect or see the Samaritan sect as orthodox and vice versa.

"33 But a certain **Samaritan**, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he **felt compassion**, 34 and **came to him**, and **bandaged up his wounds**, pouring oil and wine on them; and he **put him on his own beast**, and **brought him to an inn**, and **took care of him**. 35 And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and **whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.**'

13

"36 Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" 37 And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." And Jesus said to him, **"Go and do the same."**

"28 And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; **do this, and you will live.**"

**1. What does it mean to love God?  
It starts with accepting His Son.**

*Luke 10:16*

"The one who listens to you listens to Me, and **the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.**"

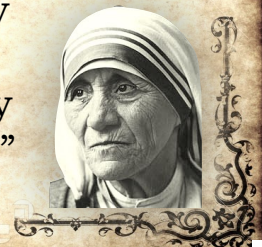
**The "man rejected" by the Priest & Levite represents the rejected Jesus.**

14

**When asked about her ministry as a social worker she replied,**

"My ministry is not social work, it is worship. My care for the suffering is my love for Jesus."

Mother Teresa



15

**2. What does it mean to love the neighbor?  
It is an extension of our love for God.**

*1 John 4*

"20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for **the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.** 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also"

*Matthew 25*

"37 Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? 38 And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 39 And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 And the King will answer and say to them, **"Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me."**

16

**What does it look like?  
How am I to be true to myself as an "image bearer" (being human)?**

- It's not rejecting but accepting Jesus.
- 1. It's not about our title but our testimony.
- 2. It's about empathetic compassion.
- 3. It's not just about praying but also being an answer to prayer.
- 4. It's not about "hit and run" but about "treating as family".

17



**Being true to ourselves as humans means -**

1. It is not about our title but our testimony.

- Pharaoh had a title  
**Moses had a testimony**
- Queen Jezebel had a title  
**Elijah had a testimony**
- King Darius had a title  
**Daniel had a testimony**
- King Herod had a title  
**John the Baptist had a testimony**
- Nero had a title  
**Peter had a testimony**
- Pontius Pilate had a title  
**Jesus had a testimony**
- The Priests had a title  
**The Samaritan had a testimony**

Being a witness for Christ starts with acting like a human being.

18

**Being true to ourselves as humans means -**

1. It is not about our title but our testimony.

2. It's about empathetic compassion.



Empathy is the front door to the house of ethics.

To enter by any other way is to never quite be at home there.

19

Pity

Sympathy Empathy Compassion

Eye

Head

Heart

Hands

I SEE  
your suffering

I UNDERSTAND  
your suffering

I FEEL your  
suffering

I ADDRESS your  
suffering

This gets my  
ATTENTION

This lets me  
know WHAT  
is needed

This gives  
me ENERGY  
to act

This is the  
DECISION  
to act

Compassion is a virtue  
when coupled with Sympathy and Empathy.

20

Our pain comes not so much  
from our being broken people  
in a broken world as it does  
from the sense of isolation  
that brokenness creates.

Isolation is the essence of hell.

Empathy removes isolation.

21

"The worst disease in  
today's world is not leprosy  
or cancer: it is the feeling  
of being uncared  
for, unwanted,  
of being deserted  
and alone."



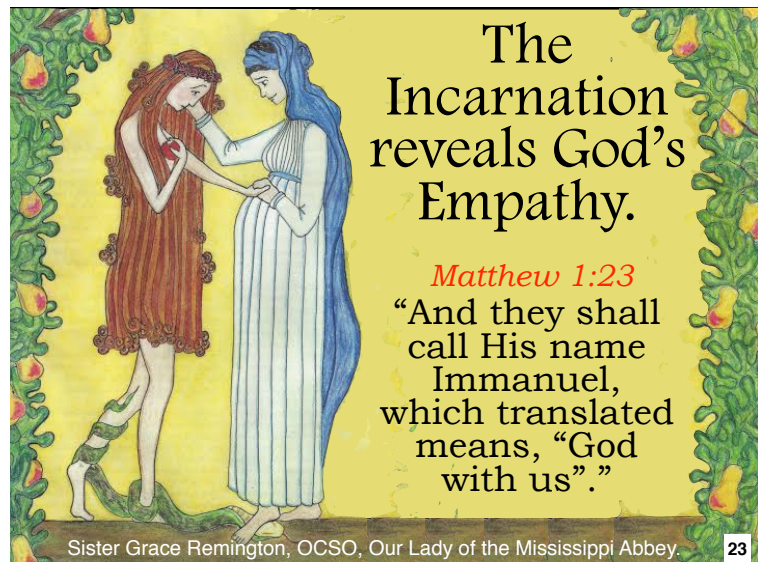
Mother Teresa

22

The  
Incarnation  
reveals God's  
Empathy.

Matthew 1:23

"And they shall  
call His name  
Immanuel,  
which translated  
means, "God  
with us"."



Sister Grace Remington, OCSO, Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey.

23

## Empathy is an important attribute of God.

*Psalm 56:8*

“You have taken account of my wanderings; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?”



24

## Jesus' ministry shows us God's empathy.

*Hebrews 4:15*

“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”

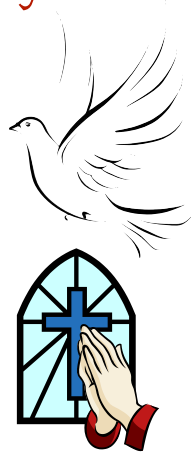


25

## The Spirit's ministry is Empathetic.

*Romans 8:26-27*

“And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”



26

## Being true to ourselves as humans means -

1. It is not about our title but our testimony.
2. Its about empathetic compassion.

3. It's not just about praying but also being an answer to prayer.

**It's willing to not just cling to the cross but also carry a cross.**

*Matthew 16*

“24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him **deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.** 25 For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. 26 For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

27

## Being true to ourselves as humans means -

1. It is not about our title but our testimony.
2. Its about “showing up” not “passing by”.

3. It's not just about praying but also being an answer to prayer.

**Disciples talk to God and man but also “SHOW UP”.**

*James 2*

“14 **What use is it**, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself. . . . 19 **faith without works is useless.**” 28

love one another (John 13:35 - this command comes 16 times)  
be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)  
honour one another **above yourselves** (Romans 12:10)  
live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)  
build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)  
be likeminded towards one another (Romans 15:5)  
accept one another (Romans 15:7)  
admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)  
care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)  
serve one another (Galatians 5:13)  
bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)  
forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)  
be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)  
be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)  
speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)  
submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5)  
consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)  
look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)  
bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)  
teach one another (Colossians 3:16)  
comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)  
encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13)  
stir up one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)  
show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)  
employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)  
clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)  
pray for one another (James 5:16)  
confess our faults to one another (James 5:16)

**The two greatest commands, on which, according to Jesus, all the others depend, are concerned with relationships, with God and one another**

(Matthew 22:36-40)

**44% of the N.T. Epistles are about our responsibilities to “one another”**  
**4% is about preaching the Gospel.**

29

### **Being true to ourselves as humans means -**

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4. It's not about "hit and run" but about "treating as family".

*Luke 10*

"34 . . . he **put him on his own beast**, and **brought him to an inn**, and **took care of him**. 35 And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and **whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.**'"

The word "take care"  
is used of pastoral and family care in 1 Tim.3:5. 30

### **Lessons for us**

#### **How to be "true to ourselves" as humans bearing God's image.**

1. Receive Jesus with his indwelling Spirit.
2. Study the life and teachings of Jesus.
3. Know yourself, Accept yourself, Forget yourself, Give yourself.
4. Identify one practical step you can take this week and take it.
5. Pray for sight, an ear to hear, and help.
6. Build a testimony for others and the world.

31

### **Lessons for us**

#### **How to be "true to ourselves" as humans bearing God's image.**

Stephen Covey

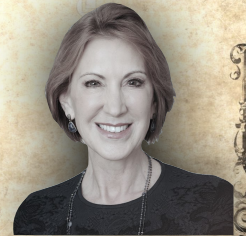


"Every human has four endowments -  
**self awareness,**  
**conscience,**  
**independent will,**  
and **creative imagination.**"

32

"What you are is God's gift to you. What you make of yourself is your gift to God."

Carly Fiorina



33

Our soul's deepest longing is for a self, lost in Adam's fall that groans with all nature to be found so as to taste and shine as salt and light for the world to know and trust that we are made of God stuff not just dust.

Jesus is for us the image of God that we long to know and hope to show as we bear our cross in a world storm tossed.

**Don't repress your true humanity.**

34