

CELL NOTES St Mark's Rawcliffe 14 Feb 2010

**Luke 10 v 25-37 Dr Luke's Orders - It's all about love**

In the context of 'Love God' and 'Love neighbour' how would you answer, *'What must I do to inherit eternal life?'*

The rabbi was faced with a moral, ethical question; 'If I go over just to make sure he's dead, and I become ritually unclean, how can I help the people?' It is likely that Jesus' audience would have agreed with the action of the priest. *Would you have agreed with them?*

What you have here is a good man following the rules, and Jesus comes along and says, 'There may be other ways to measure your conduct'. *What comparable contemporary situations can you envisage?* The story is suggesting, 'Christians have another measure besides common sense. It is compassion driven by love.

**Love that so often doesn't make sense.**

The Levite did not have authority, so he deferred to the man who had. His tactic was to go along with someone else's judgement. But Jesus says, 'That's not good enough'. Don't be one of the herd. There has to be a better yardstick than, 'the herd know best'.

*Can you think of a current situation where the 'herd rules'?*

Finally we have the Samaritan. The Jews thought the Samaritans were wretched people. Mentioning that he was a Samaritan, Jesus brings up the whole issue of prejudice. The lawyer's reluctant admission is the neighbour must be the Samaritan. The gospel says that compassion comes over the rule, and love is over the law, and integrity is over authority. It's both a beautiful thing, and a costly thing, to be a Christian. Jesus calls all of us to 'Go and do likewise'

Love draws no distinctions. Love gets on with the job, for love is inclusive and no one is **not** a neighbour. Any person of any nation, who is in need, is our neighbour. 'Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead' (James 2.17) The Christian life is all about love, self denying love, self emptying love, forgiving love.

*How might we 'Go and do likewise', and leave a legacy of love to the world?*