

**Life Group Questions**  
**May 8, 2022**  
**Atonement Fargo**

**Attitude Overhaul - Indifference**

**Ice Breaker** (discuss one or both)

- What's the difference between "minding my own business" vs. indifference?

In today's lesson, we examine the attitude that reflects indifference. At first, it doesn't seem like a terrible thing but when one examines the story of the Good Samaritan, it's an attitude that is contrary to "loving God/loving people".

**Read Together**

Luke 10:25-37

After you read this passage, discuss in your group what this passage says about indifference toward our neighbor. Specifically in the parable that Jesus tells, consider who is demonstrating the indifference. How are they described? Contrast them over against the one person who showed concern. Is there any significance between the two who were indifferent to the plight of the man who fell among robbers and the one who showed concern and compassion? While the message of the parable was abundantly clear to the lawyer who confronted Jesus in the first place, what message does this episode have for you today?

**Think It Over**

In the message on Sunday, Pastor Cross mentioned four areas where we can either show concern or act with indifference toward our neighbor. Those four areas are concern about our neighbor's safety, concern about our neighbor's security, concern about our neighbor's suffering, and concern about our neighbor's salvation. As you look at each of these areas, think of the temptation to be indifferent to our neighbor, and contrast this against the example of the Good Samaritan.

*Concern about Safety* – pertaining to their person. (In Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, the traveler on the road to Jericho was assaulted.)

Psalm 4:8

*"In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety."*

- 1) According to this verse, where do we find our safety? What is the attitude or demeanor of the writer? Does this reflect certainty/confidence or is it "hopeful"?
- 2) Discuss ways we can protect the safety of others?

*Concern for Security* – pertaining to their property. (The traveler to Jericho was stripped and robbed.)

Leviticus 25:18-19

*Therefore you shall do my statutes and keep my rules and perform them, and then you will dwell in the land securely. The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and dwell in it securely.*

Deuteronomy 22:1-2

*“You shall not see your brother’s ox or his sheep going astray and ignore them. You shall take them back to your brother. And if he does not live near you and you do not know who he is, you shall bring it home to your house, and it shall stay with you until your brother seeks it. Then you shall restore it to him.”*

- 3) Many of the promises in the Old Testament are “if/then” propositions. What is the “if/then” in the first passage?
- 4) Reflecting on the second verse, discuss the believer’s responsibility to protecting the property/security of others, especially the vulnerable in our communities?

*Concern for Suffering* – pertaining to their pain. (The traveler to Jericho was beaten and left for dead on the side of the road.)

- 5) Read Mark 5:24-34 and Matthew 8:5-13. Compare and contrast these passages. What do they teach us about seeking Jesus in times of suffering?
- 6) In the account of Matthew 8, what does it tell us about indifference or concern about the suffering of a neighbor?

*Concern for Salvation* – pertaining to their place before God. (The entire episode which prompted the telling of the parable of the Good Samaritan began with a question about inheriting eternal life.)

Matthew 9:35-38

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

- 7) Why are there so few laborers for the harvest? Is this due to people’s indifference to the salvation of others?
- 8) What does this passage say about Jesus’ concern for the salvation of others?

## **Concluding Thoughts**

While we are very good at being concerned about our own well-being in this life, the example left to us by the “religious people” versus the Good Samaritan serves us well today. And the most precious gift we have is the assurance of God’s love – not just for ourselves, but for “our neighbors”.

As stated in 2 Peter 3:9. “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

## **Prayer**

“Father in heaven for Jesus’ sake, give us a heart of compassion and concern for our neighbor. Help us reject indifference, particularly the indifference toward the salvation of others. Give us the hands to help and the words to speak when the opportunity presents itself to share the gospel. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.”