

Session Six · The Law of Love

The Good Samaritan · Salt & Lamp · The Tree & Its Fruits · Wise & Foolish Builders

WHAT WE FOUND

Tonight love of God and neighbor stopped being abstract. The Good Samaritan answers the lawyer's narrowing question, "Who is my neighbor?", by refusing it: do not ask who qualifies, become a neighbor to whoever is in front of you. And count the verbs, because mercy in the parable is a sequence of costly, concrete acts, not a feeling.

Three short companions pressed the same nerve. Salt and Lamp: the hidden interior life and the visible witness are one life. The Tree and Its Fruits: you are known by what you actually produce over time, not by what you claim. The Wise and Foolish Builders: the storm is the same for both, and the only difference is whether hearing became doing.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. John Chrysostom (347–407) Do you wish to honor the Body of Christ? Then do not neglect him when he is naked; do not honor him in church with silk while outside he shivers in cold and nakedness (paraphrasing Homilies on Matthew, Homily 50). Mercy is concrete and costly, or it is not mercy.

St. Augustine of Hippo (354–430) Read on a second level, we are the man in the ditch: Christ is the Samaritan who comes near, binds our wounds, and pays for our care (see Quaestiones Evangeliorum II.19). As Scripture says, we love because he first loved us (1 Jn 4:19).

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) A virtue is a settled habit that produces consistent action, so the fruit reveals the root (cf. Summa Theologiae I-II, q. 55); and faith formed by charity is living faith that bears fruit in works of love (cf. Summa Theologiae II-II, q. 4, a. 3; Gal 5:6), which is why the doer, not the mere hearer, is building on rock.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

1. Take the specific wounded person in your life, the one you have been passing on the other side, and do one concrete thing for them. Not next month. This week.
2. Look honestly at the fruit of the past months in one area of your life, and identify the root that needs attention. Is prayer thin? Have you been away from confession? Give that root one act of care this week that you will keep doing.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Copy it out this week and carry it with you: **Luke 10:36-37**

WHAT STAYED WITH ME

One line, an image, or a question from tonight that you do not want to lose:

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read ahead: Luke 12:13-21 (the Rich Fool) and Luke 16:19-31 (Lazarus and the Rich Man).

Catechism: CCC 1265-1267, 1822, 1825, 2447