

**The Moral Dilemma
The Good Samaritan
10/10/20
Newport News**

Opening

-how about we watch a video for the kids (at home crowd too) to create an opportunity for parents to talk with their kids about what we all need to learn together?

-(play video)

-(series slide)

-(joke about the division that currently plaguing our Nation...)

-(banana slide)

-sermon series...watch last week if you missed it!

Introduction

(read Cal Thomas quote)

"Whenever the church cozies up to political power, it loses sight of its all important mission to change the world from the inside out...In blurring the lines between politics and Christianity, the Religious Right has traded the only power that can truly change America - the Gospel's power to transform hearts."

Cal Thomas

(read David Platt quote)

The Genius of Wrong...building the right church depends on using all the wrong (whose wrong to you...which party, which color) people.

David Platt

Sophronismos

-2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT and NKJV)

-“Sophronismos” is a unique word that reminds me that I must both think AND act in a Biblical way... (compare to wisdom and judgment)

- “sophronismos” (sound mind, self-discipline, judgment)
- cowardice vs. foolishness (thinking AND acting)
- 3 words here: list vs. sequence

-(show chart)

-Power (Genesis 4:7)

I should always be in a place of self-governance. God has given me a will AND the Holy Spirit so that I never have to be a victim to myself and because of what comes next...God gives us POWER to LOVE!

-Love (Proverbs 3:3-4)

I should always pursue what is in the best interest of others and me. The “well being lines” for people can be compatible even when not identical and because of what comes next....God gives us LOVE to instruct our JUDGMENT! (parenting feeling trap)

-Judgment (Romans 12:2)

I should always think the way God would have me think and act the way God would have me act. God gives us JUDGMENT to instruct our LOVE! (legalism vs. permissiveness)

Love without judgment drifts towards only affection and affirmation while judgment without love drifts towards only callousness.

Biblical wisdom is always loving and love is always Biblically wise!

-(added insight) 2 Timothy 1:8-11

-(verse 11... “God chose me to be a _____”)

-What is your 2 Timothy 8:11 revelation?

-You’ll fail at verse 11 until you understand verse 7!

The Moral Dilemma

-So what am I supposed to do when I follow 2 Timothy 1:7 and so does someone else (who is also a devoted follower of Jesus) and we end up with two different conclusions...my outcome is different than their outcome!

-Relationships are more important than ideas! (brief...summer series)

- **Mutual Respect – I don't agree with you but I see how you got there.**
- **Self-Awareness – the possibility you might be wrong**
- **Accountability – belonging to a church family where you have both permission giving and pause giving relationships**

-Relationships worth saving... (brief...summer series)

- **A sacred purpose – 2 Timothy 8:11**
- **Christian character – Galatians 5:22-23**
- **Ministry fruit – 1 Corinthians 3:5-15**

-The Moral Failure (failing 2 Timothy 1:7)

When I am being dismissive of the convictions of others that are different from mine, and also refusing to empathize with their concerns, especially when I don't share in their circumstance.

When I suffer from The Moral Failure...I will never experience The Moral Dilemma.

-The Moral Dilemma

When I realize that two children of God, devoted followers of Jesus in an election cycle can be completely true to 2 Timothy 1:7 and cast completely different ballots.

Do you feel morally superior to others because of the ballot you intend to cast...because if you do, be careful.

The Good Samaritan

-Luke 10:25-37

Samaritans: Brief overview...around 722 BC, Assyria conquered parts of what was known as the Northern Kingdom. After Solomon's death in 931 BC, Israel divided into a Northern and Southern Kingdom. The

Assyrian both deported Jews from the Northern Kingdom and also populated it with other people from their empire (empire assimilation). People from the Northern Kingdom intermarried with these foreigners creating the "Samaritans" of Jesus' day.

So the religious leaders of Jesus day as well as the general Jewish public viewed themselves as being ethnically superior. And dating back to Jeroboam's rebellion after Solomon's death, the Mosaic Law was constantly altered to accommodate pagan practices for people in the Northern Kingdom...so the religious leaders of Jesus' day also felt morally superior. And finally, the Temple was in Jerusalem...so they also felt religiously superior. (Ethnic, moral, and religious superiority.)

The effect of this parable then would be the same today if I showed up to the Republican National Convention and in my speech told a story that made Nancy Pelosi the hero...or the Democratic National Convention and made Mitch McConnell the hero!

-Jesus is giving us a preview of 2 Timothy 1:7 even though it hasn't been written "down here" yet!

-Power:

They all exercised the power of their will...but only one did so in Love. It is interesting isn't it...Jesus puts each of them in a position of choice. They were alone, meaning no pressure from others. All three of them had the same opportunity to choose...power, will.

-Love:

They each had the opportunity to choose an interest to serve. I would argue that the Priest and Levite actually ultimately didn't even serve their own best interest! Whenever we act in love, compassion, and empathy toward others, we also serve our own future best interest because we are making the same world we live in a better place.

-Judgment:

Jesus pours it on in the end doesn't He? The Samaritan doesn't just provide first aide, he takes him to an Inn AND puts money on credit for his recovery with the promise to pay for all the expenses if it takes longer than expected! Jesus here is setting the standard for what it looks like to think and act Biblically by God's standard...it's going to require sacrifice...serving and caring for those who we oppose ideologically.

Close

- James 4:11
- 2 Timothy 2:23-24
- Proverbs 15:28