

Because of a snow storm we did not gather for church. Below: the second sermon in our February sermon series.

Crazy Love: Compassion
Pastor Karl Eastlack

When we read the Bible to explore God's expectations for healthy relationships,
we may initially say, "That's crazy!"
However, when we surrender to God's ideal, we change our tone of voice and, with enthusiasm, describe the results as "Crazy Love!"
Luke 10:25-37 The Good Samaritan

Why did the priest and levite pass by when they saw the man that had been mugged?

1. Is it because they didn't see him? No, they saw him and passed by on the other side.
2. Is it because they didn't care? They probably cared but had their reasons why they passed by.
3. Is it because they didn't have time? Probably not. This culture was not a hurried culture.
4. Why didn't they stop? They were too religious!

According to the Law, the priest and levite would have become unclean if they would have touched the hurt man. They acted like were expected to because of their title. However the thief also acted as expected because of his title too! The Samaritan acted out of character, and this is how Jesus answered the question, "Who is my neighbor?" from verse 27, "*Love the Lord you God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.*" Jesus was explaining that loving God will cause us to love outside our human boundaries. Jesus often challenged the religious people with their rules because it did not include love.

The Samaritan had:

1. Capacity
2. Awareness
3. An unshackled heart

I John 3:16-19 "*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us now love with words or tongue but wit action and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence.*"