

# Who is My Neighbor

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**Bible Text:** Luke 10:33-35

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## **Mountain Lake Independent Baptist Church**

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There are so many lessons from this parable. You could just do series after series on this. One obvious lesson from the parable itself where Jesus in response to this fellow's question, "Who is my neighbor?" he goes on and tells the story of the good Samaritan and the Levite and the priest and all of that. Well, the obvious lesson from that parable is we ought to be compassionate to other people, right? Compassion should be the hallmark of the people of God. Of all the people in Oakland, Maryland in Garrett County, the people at Mountain Lake Independent Baptist Church who know the Lord Jesus as Savior, we ought to be the most compassionate and merciful, kindest people in our community. You say, "Why do we have to be that way?" Because God has been awfully merciful and kind and compassionate to us and God wants us to be kind. God wants us to be merciful.

Look there at verse 36, "Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said," verse 37, the lawyer says, "He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go thou and do likewise." I put in the margin of my Bible: Jesus wants us to show mercy. John 13:35, the Bible says, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." It's not the size of my Bible, it's not the shortness of my hair and nobody is going to have shorter hair than me, it's not my 3 piece suit, it's not my shined black wingtips that identifies me as a Christian, it's my love for others and the Lord Jesus Christ. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples." You say, "Preacher, we've got to take a stand against sin." Yes, we should but we ought to do it in love and kindness and speak the truth in love. Right or wrong. God wants us to be kind. God wants us to hold the standard high. He wants us to stay true to the word of God and we're supposed to do it with love and kindness and compassion and mercy in our heart. How many folks here, God has been awfully patient with you? Sure. We ought to turn around and do the same thing. Romans 5:5, the Bible says, "Herein the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit of God." God wants us, God wants to love people through us and as we go about our work day week, we go out and visit folks and interact with people, we ought to be kind, we ought to be compassionate. We don't compromise our convictions but we are very, very gracious and very, very kind.

I pray continually, Brother Chip, I got a little text from Chip this morning, Betty. He said, "Praying for you, brother." I said, "Thanks man, I need it." And one thing years ago,

Brother Chip came to me and this meant a lot to me. He came to me and he said, "Preacher, what can I pray for you? I want to pray every day for you and what is something I can pray for you?" I said, "Chip, I've got 3 requests. 1. Pray every day that God will give me wisdom. 2. Pray every day that God will give me power and courage to stay true to the word of God. 3. And this one I earnestly need, pray that God would give me compassion. God would give a love in my heart for people." I have a hard time with folks in the ministry: in Sunday school, bus worker, pastor or whatever. I have a hard time with folks who say, "Oh, I love the ministry, it's people I can't stand." Now, we laugh at that and we mean it jokingly but I'll be honest with you, that gets under my skin. There is no ministry without people and if you don't love people, get out of the ministry because that's what you're there for, to love people with the love of God. To care about them. Be involved in their lives. Interact with them. So that's the obvious lesson from this. So you can see where you could preach a series on that, huh? "Go thou and do likewise." I want to speak to our members here this morning: let's make this an earnest prayer of us as members of Mountain Lake, "God, give me compassion." How many folks in our church, you say, "Preacher, I'm going to make that my prayer that God would give me compassion. I care about others enough to invest and be a part of their lives and give of myself." It's what the guy did here.

So the lawyer comes and says, "Okay, love my neighbor as myself. All right, who exactly is my neighbor?" The Lord tells this story and one of the lessons from this story is that we are to be compassionate. There is another lesson here and I'm going to try and go through this quickly because I want to get to something else but my heart is full. I see here in this parable of the good Samaritan where the guy, the thieves come upon him and strip him and leave him for dead. A priest comes by and goes on the other side. A Levite comes by and comes over and looks at him and then goes by on the other side. A Samaritan, of all people, shows up and he invests himself. He takes care of the guy and gets him in and make sure he's okay. I see here some principles for personal evangelism. How many folks in the service this morning you're saved and you know it? Say amen. How many folks of us that know Jesus Christ as Savior, how many of us have a real concern, "I'd like to see other people saved"? Can I get a witness there? Sure we do. I think there are some lessons from this parable that will help us be a witness to other people, help us win others to Christ.

The first one I see here is there is an awareness on the part of this good Samaritan. Look at verse 33. I want to zero in, "But a certain Samaritan, as he went by, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion." It was as he journeyed. Now, here's the thing I noticed: this Samaritan, this good guy, he wasn't out looking for victims. He wasn't out victim winning. It wasn't Thursday night victim finding, right? He's just going about his daily business. He's just wherever he's going. Maybe a business trip. Maybe he's going to visit family. We don't know. But as he's going along, here's the thing: he is aware of his surroundings. He is aware that here is a person that has a need. Here is a person that is in bad shape. Here is a person that desperately needs somebody to do for him what he cannot do for himself.

Now, if we could get that frame of mind as Christians in our soul winning, I think we would see more people saved. As we go on our journey, as we're going about our day. As we're going about our business, doing our work, doing whatever. We are aware of the fact that there are people around us who desperately need the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. People around us who are in bad shape, they are in sin, they are under the judgment of God, if they die in that condition, they'll be separated from God for all eternity in the lake of fire. They are in bad shape and they cannot save themselves. How can they believe if they have not heard? They need somebody to share the message of Jesus Christ with them and God help us as Christians to be aware as I'm at Walmart, when I'm downtown, when I'm out fishing by the lake or whatever. There are people around us as we journey. We should see people who need the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

So he was aware. He saw. Jesus said over and over to his disciples, he would make this statement, "Look on the fields." Do you know what he saying? He's saying, "Be aware. Be aware of the fact that there are entire countries that have very few if any Gospel witness in them." We have adopted the nation of Kazakhstan as our missions country. 17 million people. We know of 3 independent fundamental Baptist missionaries. 17 million people, 3 missionaries. Now, they're not the only ones. There are others that preach the Gospel there but what I'm saying is we cannot blind our eyes to the fact that we live in a world that desperately needs Jesus Christ as Savior.

So there was awareness here and I think that's a principle of soul winning. The second thing I noticed: he had compassion. Look again at verse 33, the last phrase, "he had compassion on him." That word "compassion" is an interesting word. It has the idea of having your emotions stirred. It has the idea of having my heart stirred, my heart is touched. Last October, my wife and I, Kathy, became grandparents. That is exciting. Of course, Sam and Sarah live out in Missouri so we don't get to see them a whole lot but I thank God for technology and now we are able to get on our little phone, we can Skype with them. How many people have ever heard of that? I tell you, I'm on cutting edge technology here. I know about this stuff. I know how to text and take pictures with a phone. Who ever dreamed you would take pictures with your phone? I'll tell you, he sends a little picture of my little granddaughter. Do you know what happens to my heart? I mean it is stirred. It is touched. You know, I'm a pastor, I see pictures of babies, people say, "Oh preacher, come and look at my baby." I say, "Oh nice, that's cute." You know, they're newborn. You go and visit, "Look how beautiful." They look like a grape, you know. A raisin. "It's beautiful." I shouldn't do this. I'm not going to do it. But anyway, I get a picture of my grandchild. That's a whole other story, right? Can I get a witness? My heart just melts. I love her so much. She's got this thing when we Skype she's trying to kiss Kathy and she puts the whole phone in her mouth so the screen just goes black and then it comes back.

That is a little bit the idea when he says he had compassion on him. He saw this guy hurting. He's left for dead and something in the heart of this Samaritan is touched and his heart is stirred and he says, "I can't just leave him. I can't just walk by. I've got to do something." God, give us as Christians a little bit of compassion for the lost that are on

their way to hell. I can't just walk by them and let them die and go to hell. I've got to do something. Compassion. Compassion. He genuinely cared for this man's well-being.

I'm asking God to help me genuinely care about people who need Jesus Christ as Savior. I've got a boy I've been witnessing to, Brother Jerry told me he was probably moving down to the eastern part of the state. I've been so burdened for this guy. I've witnessed to him and witnessed to him and he won't get saved. He reminds me so much of me before I got saved. I look at him and I think of myself back before Christ. My heart is stirred and he's kind of getting hard. You know, I've been putting the squeeze on him and now he's starting to put the fence up. Now I find out he's moving away. I've been asking God, "God, help me have compassion for people who need Jesus as Savior. God, help me really care." The best soul winners, the best witness, those people that bring people to Christ are people who genuinely care about other people. It's not just a notch to put in my Bible but it's a soul, it's an individual that God loves and God has a plan for them. I really care about whether they are saved or not. I really care about whether they have eternal life and have new life and God's presence in their life.

So the first principle I see here as far as this good Samaritan and lessons I can learn from his actions to be a better witness, first of all, I need to be aware of the fact that there are people around me in need, not just turn a blind eye. Don't just walk on. How many folks here, I'm talking to Christians now, how many folks here, have you ever been somewhere and something down inside your heart touches your heart and you ought to talk to that person about Christ? You ought to give them a little Gospel tract? Anybody know what I'm talking about? Just something, I just want to give that person. How many times do we start giving excuses why I shouldn't do that? "Oh Lord, they'll get mad. I can't. I'd look like an idiot. I can't do that." Do you know what I think that is? I think that's the Holy Spirit of God prompting us. God is working in their life. The Spirit of God is prompting us to take the Gospel to them.

We need to be aware. The second thing: we ought to have compassion. We ought to have compassion. The third thing I noticed from this passage in verse 34, he had awareness, he had compassion but he also had involvement. Look at verse 34. Boy, I underlined those first several words in that phrase, in that verse, "and," what? "Went to him." As he journeyed. He's going along the Jericho Road. He's got his business, whatever it is, family, work, whatever he's doing. He's traveling down this road but he's aware of the fact that, "There is a guy over there off the road. Laying there. He is all bloody. In fact, I'm not even sure he's alive. He might be dead." And he's aware of that and his heart is touched. "This guy needs something." But here's the thing and this is where probably we mess up as Christians the most: he didn't just walk on, he got involved. He got involved. Our problem is we have this mentality, "I know they are lost. I know they need Christ. If they die like that, they'll go to hell. I know that but it's none of my business. It doesn't affect me." We just walk on.

This guy didn't. He stopped. He got involved. He went to him. It says he took care of him. Do you know what that means? He had to adjust his schedule a little bit. He had to inconvenience himself. He had to invest a little bit of time, a little bit of effort. He had to

invest a little bit of finance as we see a little bit later. I want to suggest to you: he even put himself at risk. There are thieves in them there woods. Involvement. Involvement.

We sing about others' need of Christ, "Send the light, the blessed Gospel light. Let it shine. Here am I, Lord, send me. We have heard the Macedonian call today." We sing about it. How often do we do anything about it? How often do we actually go? We preach about it, "Preacher, win the lost. Yes, America's need is for people to get saved. Amen." Preachers get up and we preach about it but how often do we go to them and get involved with them? I like what Lester Roloff said, he said, "To get America saved, you have to get Americans saved." To save America, you've got to get Americans saved. That requires involvement. We sing about it, we preach about it, we talk about it but what the lost really need, what the unsaved person in Mountain Lake Park this morning that woke up this morning without Christ, without God, without hope in the world, they are sitting in their living room right now, they are in their backyard getting the grill ready, what they really need is not a church singing about them getting saved, they don't need a church preaching about them getting saved, they don't need a church talking about them getting saved, they need somebody to come to them and tell them how to be saved. Involvement. Involvement. He went to him. He went to him. We've got to go to them. We've got to get involved in their lives.

We're burdened for Kazakhstan. I really genuinely believe our church is burdened for the nation of Kazakhstan. We've been there; we're trying to find missionaries; we're investing money in that. Do you know what the people in Kazakhstan need? Somebody to come over there and tell them how to be saved. Somebody to go to them. I get the chance to preach a little bit at high school graduations and chapel. Brother Grant and I do it a little bit. Every single time I go, I take cards about Kazakhstan. I challenge those young people, "Please pray and consider giving yourself to go to this country or any country that God would direct you." I got a really nice card this week from the G.'s going to Argentina. Just took them on as support. What a great family. I'll tell you, these missionaries stir my heart. They are willing to uproot. He was pastoring a good church, very successful, people getting saved, the church was growing. God stirred his heart about people in Argentina. He didn't just preach about it, sing about it, talk about it, he said, "Do you know what? I need to go down there." There are people in town here, there are people in Accident that need a bus to come up there and pick them up and bring them and tell them about Jesus. There are folks over in Terra Alta, down in Kitzmiller, up in Grantsville. We've got folks in Grantsville that like to come to church here but we don't have any way to get them. They don't have a vehicle. We don't have any way to go get them and bring them here. They say, "We'd like to come to church." They need the Lord. I mean, by name we know folks. Well, we need to talk about that and we need to sing and preach about that. No, they need somebody to come there.

So there was awareness. There was compassion. There was involvement. He invested time. He invested effort. He invested money so that this guy would be okay. God, give us Christians whose hearts are stirred, who are aware of the need, our hearts are stirred and you say, "You know, I'm going to get involved. I'll adjust my schedule. I'll do whatever I need to do. I need to get involved. These people need Christ."

Then I see the fourth principle in the soul winning from this passage in verse 35. It says, "And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee." I put this down: follow up. Follow up. He's aware of the need, he's on his journey, he's going along, "Man, what's the deal? Good heavens, this guy is beat up. He's bloody there. He's stripped naked. I think he might be dead. No, he's still alive." His heart stirred. "I can't just leave him here. He'll die. If I don't do something, he will die. All right, I'll go to him." And he invests the effort and he invests the time. He takes care of the guy. He gets him up on his donkey. He gets him down there. Changes his schedule, his routine. Gets him in the inn there. Gets whatever he needs. Takes care of him. Then he says this, "when I come back." This is what stirred my heart about that: he didn't just take care of him and then go on and forget all about him. He said, "No, no, there needs to be some follow up. I need to come back and make sure he's okay. I need to come back and make sure he's healing up. I need to come back and make sure all the needs are met." It's more than just a one time, 1, 2, 3, pray with me, it's over, I go on. It's no, no, I need to invest. I need to follow up. I need to spend some time. I need to do a little work here. And I'll be honest with you: if I have failed in my personal soul winning in any way, oh, there are a lot of ways, to be honest with you, but I tell you, one big way I fail in my personal soul winning and it has been this, I lead someone to Christ, see them trust Jesus Christ as Savior and I like to write their name in my Bible and I put in my Bible and I try to pray for them and then I go on and never come back and invest the time and effort that's needed to follow them up and to get them, help them live for God. You all are looking at me so pious. Some of you don't even witness to them. Sorry. But God convicted me in studying this message. I need to do more follow up. I need to come back again and next week I need to come back, "Hey, how is it going? Is God working in your life? Hey, we'd like you to come to church. Hey, what do you need? Hey, we've got a discipleship program. Let me teach you what it means to be saved and what it means to live for God."

You know, I got reading in the end of Matthew and it says, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations," it doesn't stop there. "Baptizing them." Every single person needs to accept Jesus Christ as Savior. If they don't, they die in their sins and they end up in hell. Right or wrong? So I need to teach them the Gospel. I need to show them how to be saved and try and persuade them and urge them to accept Jesus Christ as Savior. Most people I witness to don't get saved but some do. Some do. Now, once they do that, they accept Jesus Christ as Savior, my responsibility is not over. He says, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them." If you're here this morning and you've never accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, that is the most important thing in your life right now is to settle that matter and accept Christ as your Savior. Now, if you have done that, if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, the very next thing you want to do as a believer and this is my conviction, the most important thing you do once you're saved is you ought to follow the Lord in believer's baptism. What I mean is you ought to come out for Christ. "I am a follower of Jesus Christ. He died for me, was buried and rose again. I am not ashamed of the fact that he is my Savior from sin and hell and I will identify with

him in believer's baptism." Here if you're saved and not baptized, you ought to be baptized. It's as simple as that.

But it doesn't end there. As a soul winner, as this good Samaritan, I'm aware of the need, my heart is touched, I get involved, I come back and I do follow up. And as a soul winner, I want to make sure they have assurance, they understand what took place, give them some principles. I want to do everything I can to help encourage them to follow the Lord in baptism. You say, "Preacher, you're just wanting to have a lot of baptisms." Listen to me: you know my heart, that is not it at all. We want people to follow Jesus Christ as Savior. That is our motive.

But it doesn't end there. Now we've got to teach them to observe all things, whatsoever the Lord has commanded us. That means we teach them they ought to read their Bible every single day. Every Christian should read their Bible every single day. Let me say that again. Listen, as a Christian, I think one of the most important things that you do as a Christian, I mean, living the Christian life, is spending some time alone with God in God's word. I have never seen a Christian become strong in their faith without reading their Bible on a regular basis. At some times I've had the unpleasant responsibility to help people sometimes when they sin and they mess up and they want to make it right. By the way, don't get too pious here, there are none that don't mess up. "A just man falleth seven times but he rises up again." And in our dealing with them, in trying to help them, one of the first questions I always ask to a Christian that has messed up, one of the first questions I ask, "Are you reading your Bible every day?" Do you know what the pattern has been? "Well, you know, preacher, I kind of let it slide. Well, preacher, I did but I kind of got away from it." I don't say this but the thought in my mind is, "That's exactly what I thought was the case." I'll tell you, this book will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from this book. One or the other. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

So my responsibility as a soul winner is to come back, follow up, come again. When I come back again, I come back and try get them assurance, hope and encourage them to follow the Lord in baptism, teach them that a Christian ought to read their Bible every day, a Christian ought to pray every day. I tell you, we have so many aids to help us pray. Little aids. I've got a little thing on my phone and in the morning, bing, "Don't forget to pray for So-and-so." I've got a whole list of people in our church and I have reminders throughout the day, bing, "Pray for So-and-so." One of them is, bing, "Pray for 3 missionaries to go to Kazakhstan." Every day. Bing, "Pray for new members to be added to the church." Bing, "Pray that So-and-so gets saved." Bing, "Pray that God will heal that marriage." We get all this help. There is no excuse for Christians not praying. And it blows my mind that we need that much provoking to pray. It looks like we ought to be eager.

So we teach them to pray, read their Bible. I want to get this guy, he's saved now, God saved his life but we're going to follow up, make sure he's okay. Make sure that he's growing and healing and getting to where he needs to be. Baptized and read your Bible,

pray. I will follow up and say, "Hey brother, you need to be faithful to church." Faithful to church. Church is God's idea. You say, "Well, I don't believe in organized church." I don't know if we here believe in organized church or not but I believe in God's church. It's the body of Christ. God designed it. The very design is to help Christians grow and be what we ought to be. So I want to teach that new believer. Do you follow what I'm saying? Follow up. Follow up. Follow up.

So the Great Commission is more than just getting someone to call on the Lord. The Great Commission is investing myself in that person's life maybe over a period of time. I thank God. Did I ever tell you? May 7, 1979. Have I ever mentioned that to you, the night I got saved? 10:30 on a Monday night, right after work. People are putting that on my Facebook now. I went to church that next Sunday. It was a liberal church down the road where nobody had a Bible. I was 7 days old in the Lord and I knew that you bring a Bible to church. Nobody had a Bible. The preacher didn't preach from the Bible. They just, I don't know what they did. So I went to another church. I found a good independent Bible preaching church.

I come in there, I'm telling you, I showed up in church that day and I was looking good. It was 1979, I'm 19 years old. I was dressed up. Going to church, you've got to dress up. I had my black silk shirt on. This is the truth. If I ever say the truth, I'll point it out. Black silk shirt. Gold chain necklace. Tan, polyester bellbottoms. I'm telling you, this is what I wore to church. Platform shoes, black. I mean, I was impressed. I walked in and everybody looked at me and it was like, yikes.

I didn't have any problem finding a seat but there were 2 guys in that church, Arden Musselman and Terry Wilcox. They saw me. I was newly saved. I was so hungry to know God and I was reading my Bible. God had changed my life so much in just a few days. I didn't know anybody. They were all scared of me. As soon as the service was over, zing, "Hey, what's your name?" Back then I went by Denny. "I'm Denny." "Hey Denny, what's going on?" "Ah, just coming to church." "Are you saved? Do you know Jesus?" "Yeah, last Monday night I accepted Jesus as my Savior." "Really?" And I mean those 2 guys took me in under their wings. That next week they showed up at my door, "Denny," we're talking. "Let's read some Bible with you. Can we come by next week?" "Sure, man!" They said, "We've got this Bible Study. It's for new Christians when they get saved." "Yeah, I want that." "Here are these verses." And for about 6 months those guys followed up and came back again and came back again and came back again and came back again and they would invite me, we would go out to eat and they would take me to activities and say, "You need to get involved in this. Hey, we've got an opening in our children's program here and you can just help put the drinks out. Do it somewhere where nobody can see you."

Let me throw this out just real quick for our church folks: sometimes a new Christian or a visitor will come to church and they are dressed pretty different than what we might do, keep in mind, we live in a day and age where some of the things that they are doing, that's what you do to dress up. Do you follow what I'm saying? Boy, he's not in here, is he? He's downstairs. There's a boy down in children's church. I love this kid. He got saved



last summer. I'll just whisper. He had never been to church. So Mark and Jackie bring him in, some of you know who I'm talking about. This brother and sister come in and he told them, "We're going to church. You need to dress up." So he got his clean bluejeans, he's got his T-shirt, he's got his mohawk trimmed just perfect, dyed it bright purple and he's going to church. You say, "Oh, that little punk." No, it wasn't a little punk. It was a little kid doing the only thing he knew to do to dress up to go to church. So bear with people. They come in with silk shirt, bellbottoms, polyester. They might think they are dressed up. They look like a clown but they think they are dressed up.

Old Arden and Terry, to this day, I don't know where they got to. I went off to Bible college, they went their way and I don't know where they're at today but I'll tell you what, just the thought of them, I thank God for those 2 men. They didn't have to do that. I often thought where would I be? Where would I be if those 2 guys didn't take the time to follow up? To follow up. To follow up.

That was my introduction and this is the invitation. We'll have the message next week and all God's people said, "Praise the Lord." Let's ask God, I'm talking to the saved people here this morning, let's ask God to give us some compassion and we really care about others, amen? Just a simple little prayer but it might change our life. "God, give me compassion."

Let's work this week at being aware of people around us who need Christ. Hey, it might affect how we talk. We might be a little more careful at what I say if I'm aware of the fact that there are people around me that need Christ. I might be a little more ethical in my work if I'm aware people around me need Christ. I might be a little more patient with them.

Let's ask God to give us compassion. Let's get involved. Go to that person and say, "Hey, would you like to come to baby day? I saw your wife had a little baby. I'll come and get you and we'll go out to eat afterward. We'll do a little something. It will be great." Just simple little things.

Get involved. Get involved. And then when someone does trust Christ, hey, when someone comes in here that has gotten saved, the fellow last week got baptized, let's have our church folk all over them. "Hey, we want to help you. Come on over. Hey, let me pray with you. Have you got any prayer requests? Something I can help you with?" Get involved and follow up and follow up and follow up. You say, "That's the preacher's job." That Samaritan was not a preacher, he was just an average day guy that saw the need and involved himself in it.

Let's pray.

*Father in heaven, I ask you to help us, Lord. I pray, Lord, that you would make us a soul winning church in the biblical sense. Help us, Lord, to be compassionate, aware, involved and use us. We just want you to use us. Lord, you have been so gracious and*

*you have been so kind and you have been so good to us, it would be sin for us not to be gracious and kind and involved in other people's lives.*

With our heads bowed and our eyes closed, how many Christians here this morning would say, "Preacher, I need God to give me more compassion for others. I need God to break my heart that I would be more compassionate." Is there any like that? "That's my prayer this morning for God to give me compassion for the lost around me." How about it? God bless you. Hands all around. Just that one prayer earnestly prayed before God I think would change everything.

I wonder if there were some that would say, "Preacher, I need to be more aware of the needs of people around me. I get so wrapped up in myself. I need to be aware that there are people around me that have real needs." Are there any like that? You say, "Preacher, that's my need, to be more aware." God bless you, hands. Getting involved. Why don't we just go down the list? Following up.

All of this. Let me address any that might be here this morning who say, "Preacher, I don't know for sure when I die I'd go to heaven." Maybe your thinking is, "I believe I would. I hope I would. I want to." But if you can't honestly say in your heart based on the word of God that you know for sure that when you die you go to heaven and not to hell, if you don't have that assurance set on your heart, you need to get that settled today. It is too dire to play games with your eternal soul. And you would say, "Preacher, I'm not sure and I would like God to help me settle that in my heart that my sins are forgiven. I go to heaven and not to hell when I die." Is there any like that by the uplifted hand? "Preacher, pray for me also that I could have that settled." God bless you. How about it? Any others? "Preacher, I'm not sure that when I die I would go to heaven. I do not want to go to hell. I need God to help me settle that." Any others? Any others?

I wonder if there are some this morning who would say, "Preacher, I've been saved but I have not been baptized and I need to come out and out for Christ. I'll die to self. I'll follow the Lord and make that clear through my baptism, identification with Christ in baptism." Is there any here that have been saved but have not been baptized? You say, "Preacher, pray for me. I know that's an important step." God bless you. How about it? Others? How about it? Others? God bless you. It's an important step.

We went down a list of things that every Christian should do: pray, read Bible, go to church, witness, we ought to separate from the world. There is a whole list of things. Maybe as a Christian you say, "Preacher, I need to grow as a Christian. I need to do this follow up stuff for my own self." Brother, is there any like that? "Preacher, pray for me. There are some of these things that I know I have neglected and I need to get that in place." God bless you.

*Father, there are a lot of hands raised this morning. You know our hearts. We're asking you to help us. We're asking you, Lord, not leave us alone, provoke us that we would grow and develop. I pray for those that need Christ as Savior that today they would be willing to make that decision and help every person that raised their hand find a place,*

*an old-fashioned altar, and just do business with you. Lord, stir our hearts. Help us I pray in Jesus' name.*

Let's stand together.