



## GPS

Week of October 11, 2026

Love in Action: A Month of Seeing, Giving, Sharing, and Restoring

### “And Who is My Neighbor”

SUNDAY 10.11.26 Luke 10:30-37

Jesus replied, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, ‘Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.’ What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?” Then the legal expert said, “The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

## The Woman at Simon's Table

MONDAY 10.12.26 Luke 7:36-38, 44-48

When a Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to dinner, it was the kind of meal where people from town might wander in and watch from the edges of the room. So no one stopped the woman who came in carrying a jar of perfumed oil, even though Simon knew exactly who she was and what people said about her.

What she did next would have made the whole room uncomfortable. Weeping over a guest's feet, wiping them with her hair, and pouring perfume on them in front of everyone was far outside respectable behavior, and Simon quietly decided it settled the question about Jesus. If Jesus were really a prophet, he would have known what kind of woman was touching him.

Jesus knew exactly what Simon was thinking, and he answered with a short story about two people whose debts were canceled, one large and one small. Simon had to admit that the one forgiven more would love the lender more. Then Jesus turned toward the woman and walked Simon back through the evening. As the host, Simon had skipped the simple courtesies any guest expected, and the woman he had written off was the one who had welcomed Jesus.

Jesus told Simon that her many sins had been forgiven, and that her great love came from that forgiveness. Adam Clarke, an early Methodist scholar, described her love as "the effect of her being pardoned, not the cause of it."\* She walked into that house already forgiven, and everything she poured out that night was her way of saying thank you.

Jesus was saying that generous love grows out of knowing we've been forgiven. God's grace comes to us first, as a free gift. We're called to let that grace make us generous.

- The woman walked into Simon's house already forgiven, and everything she gave Jesus that night was her response. When you think about the grace God has shown you, how does it shape the way you give to the people around you?
- Jesus said the woman's great love came from being forgiven much. What is one way you could respond to God's forgiveness this week by giving generously to someone else?

*Prayer: God, thank you for forgiving me freely. Help me receive that forgiveness with the same gratitude the woman brought into Simon's house. Let that gratitude shape how I love and give to the people around me. Show me one person this week I can give to freely, the way she gave to Jesus. Amen.*

\* Adam Clarke, *The Holy Bible with a Commentary and Critical Notes*, on Luke 7:47 (London, 1810-1826).

## What Peter Had to Give

TUESDAY 10.13.26 Acts 3:1-8

Peter and John were going up to the temple at three o'clock in the afternoon, the established prayer time. Meanwhile, a man crippled since birth was being carried in. Every day, people would place him at the temple gate known as the Beautiful Gate so he could ask for money from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he began to ask them for a gift. Peter and John stared at him. Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gazed at them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, "I don't have any money, but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, rise up and walk!" Then he grasped the man's right hand and raised him up. At once his feet and ankles became strong. Jumping up, he began to walk around. He entered the temple with them, walking, leaping, and praising God.

In the early days of the church, Peter and John were on their way to the temple for the afternoon hour of prayer, just as faithful Jews did every day. At the gate sat a man who had never walked a day in his life. Someone carried him there every day so he could beg from the worshipers going in, and he had been doing it long enough that people recognized him on sight. By the time this story happened, he was more than forty years old.

When he saw Peter and John coming, he asked them for money, the way he had asked countless people before them. It was a reasonable request, and on most days a few coins were the best he could hope for. Peter had nothing to put in his hand.

That could have been the end of it. Most of us know the small awkwardness of being asked for something we can't give, and how easy it is to offer an apology and keep walking. Peter stopped instead. He told the man he would give him what he did have, and in the name of Jesus he took him by the right hand and lifted him up. For the first time in his life the man stood, and he went through the gate he had spent years sitting outside, walking and leaping and praising God.

The crowd that gathered wanted to know how Peter had done it, and Peter was quick to point them to Jesus. What he gave the man that day was something he had first received himself.

Peter was showing that we always have something to give, even when we don't have what someone asks for. Even when we can't give money, we can offer our time, our attention, a meal, a ride to an appointment, or a few minutes to listen. Everything we have to offer came from God first. We're called to give what we have today, without waiting until we have more.

- Peter didn't have the money the man asked for, so he gave what he did have. Think of someone who needs help right now. What do you have to offer them, even if it isn't everything they need?
- Peter made sure the crowd knew the healing came from Jesus. How does remembering that what you have came from God change the way you think about giving it away?

*Prayer: God, everything I have came from you. When I feel like I don't have enough to help someone, remind me that I still have something to give. Keep me from waiting until I have more. Lead me this week to someone who could use my time, my attention, or my help, and give me the willingness to offer it. Amen.*

## Jesus at Levi's Table

WEDNESDAY 10.14.26 Mark 2:13-17

Jesus went out beside the lake again. The whole crowd came to him, and he taught them. As he continued along, he saw Levi, Alphaeus' son, sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Levi got up and followed him. Jesus sat down to eat at Levi's house. Many tax collectors and sinners were eating with Jesus and his disciples. Indeed, many of them had become his followers. When some of the legal experts from among the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples, "Why is he eating with sinners and tax collectors?" When Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. I didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners."

Levi collected taxes along a busy road near the Sea of Galilee, and nearly everyone who passed his booth had a reason to resent him. Tax collectors worked for the ruling powers, and many were known to collect more than they were owed and keep the difference. Most respectable people kept their distance, which may be why so many of Levi's friends were people the rest of town had written off too.

So when Jesus called Levi to follow him and then went to dinner at his house, it was more than a friendly meal. In that culture, sharing a table was a sign of acceptance, a way of saying these people were your people. Jesus sat down in a room full of tax collectors and sinners, and he stayed.

Word got around quickly. Some legal experts who were Pharisees, men who took holiness seriously and paid careful attention to who they ate with, asked Jesus' disciples why their teacher would share a meal with people like that. To them, Jesus was putting his good name at risk. Jesus heard the question and answered it himself, and his answer made clear that he knew exactly where he was and why he had come.

The gift Jesus brought to Levi's table was his own presence, his time, his friendship, and a seat beside people who rarely got one. It cost him the approval of people whose opinion carried weight, and he gave it anyway.

Jesus was showing that some of the most loving gifts we can give are our time and our presence, especially to people others have written off. God came close to us in Jesus while we were still far from him. We're called to give our time and presence the same way, and to take a seat at those tables too.

- Jesus gave Levi and his friends his time and a seat at their table, and it cost him the approval of respected people. Who in your life might need your time or company, even if spending time with them isn't popular?
- In Jesus' day, sharing a meal was a sign of acceptance. Who is someone outside your usual circle you could offer that kind of welcome to this week, through a meal, a conversation, or an invitation?

*Prayer: Jesus, you sat at Levi's table with people others had written off. Thank you for coming close to me. Give me the courage to offer my time and friendship to someone outside my usual circle, even when others might not understand. Help me care more about loving people well than about what others think of me. Amen.*

## Esau Ran to Meet His Brother

THURSDAY 10.15.26 Genesis 33:1-4, 8-11

Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with four hundred men. He divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two women servants. He put the servants and their children first, Leah and her children after them, and Rachel and Joseph last. He himself went on ahead of them and bowed to the ground seven times as he approached his brother. But Esau ran to meet him, threw his arms around his neck, kissed him, and they wept. ... Esau said, "What's the meaning of this whole group that I met?" Jacob said, "To ask for my master's kindness." Esau said, "I have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have." Jacob said, "No, please, if I've gained your approval, take my gift from me. Seeing your face is like seeing God's face, since you've accepted me. Take my gift of greeting that was brought to you, since God has been generous to me and I have everything I need." So Jacob pressed him, and he took it.

Jacob and Esau were twins, and for most of their lives Jacob had been the one looking for an angle. When their father, Isaac, grew old and nearly blind, Jacob disguised himself as his older brother and walked away with the blessing their father meant for Esau. Esau was so angry that he vowed to kill him, so Jacob fled, and he stayed away for twenty years.

When Jacob finally headed home and heard that Esau was coming to meet him with four hundred men, he sent wave after wave of animals ahead as gifts, hoping to buy his brother's goodwill before they ever came face to face. Then he spent the night before the meeting alone, afraid of what the morning would bring.

When Esau came into view, Jacob bowed to the ground again and again, bracing for the worst. What he got instead was his brother running toward him, throwing his arms around his neck, and weeping. Esau had spent twenty years with every reason to stay angry, and when the moment came, he let it go. He even tried to turn down the animals because he already had plenty, and what he had just given his brother was something no amount of livestock could have bought.

Jacob knew exactly what he had received, and he told Esau that seeing his face was like seeing the face of God. He kept pressing his gift until Esau accepted it, and he called it a blessing, the same Hebrew word used for what he had stolen all those years before. This time the blessing was freely given.

Esau was showing that forgiveness is a gift we give out of love, even when we have every reason to hold on to the hurt. God meets each of us with that same kind of welcome. We're called to offer it to the people we've kept at a distance.

- Esau had twenty years to hold on to his hurt, and when the moment came, he ran to his brother. Is there someone you've been holding a hurt against, and what would it look like to offer them forgiveness as a gift?
- Jacob put off facing his brother for twenty years, and the meeting he dreaded turned into a reunion. Is there a conversation you've been putting off, and what might help you take the first step this week?

*Prayer: God, thank you for meeting me with open arms. Give me a forgiving heart, willing to let go of old hurts the way Esau did for his brother. When a relationship in my life needs mending, give me the wisdom and courage to take the first step. Help me offer forgiveness as a gift of love, the way you have forgiven me. Amen.*

## The Clothing Tabitha Made

FRIDAY 10.16.26 Acts 9:36-41

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas). Her life overflowed with good works and compassionate acts on behalf of those in need. About that time, though, she became so ill that she died. After they washed her body, they laid her in an upstairs room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to Peter. They urged, “Please come right away!” Peter went with them. Upon his arrival, he was taken to the upstairs room. All the widows stood beside him, crying as they showed the tunics and other clothing Dorcas made when she was alive. Peter sent everyone out of the room, then knelt and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. He gave her his hand and raised her up. Then he called God’s holy people, including the widows, and presented her alive to them.

Joppa was a busy port town on the Mediterranean coast, and like most towns in that world it had widows who struggled to get by. Without a husband and often without any steady income, a widow could easily slip to the edges of the community. Tabitha, a disciple in the church at Joppa, gave her life to caring for people like them. Luke described her life as overflowing with good works and acts of kindness, and much of that kindness seems to have come through a needle and thread.

When she died, her friends sent for Peter, who was staying in a nearby town. By the time he arrived, the upstairs room where her body lay was full of grieving widows. They held up the tunics and other clothing she had made, and those garments told Peter who Tabitha had been better than any speech could have.

Peter prayed, and God gave Tabitha back to her friends. Luke wrote that word spread all over Joppa and many people came to believe in the Lord. It all started in a room full of women whose lives she had quietly cared for.

Tabitha’s life showed that love is often given through ordinary, faithful work, the kind of quiet care that may never draw much attention. God sees every one of those gifts, and he can use them in ways we would never expect. We’re called to offer what we know how to do for the people around us, whether or not anyone ever notices.

- When the widows wanted to show Peter who Tabitha was, they held up the clothing she had made. What ordinary skill of yours could become a way to care for someone in need?
- Tabitha gave her time and skill to widows, women her community could easily overlook. Who near you could use practical help this week, and what could you make, fix, or do for them?

*Prayer: God, thank you for the skills and abilities you have given me, even the ones that seem small or ordinary. Show me how to use them to care for people who need help. Give me the patience to do the slow, practical work that love sometimes asks for. Help me offer what my hands can do this week. Amen.*

## Why the Macedonian Churches Gave

SATURDAY 10.17.26 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 9

Brothers and sisters, we want to let you know about the grace of God that was given to the churches of Macedonia. While they were being tested by many problems, their extra amount of happiness and their extreme poverty resulted in a surplus of rich generosity. I assure you that they gave what they could afford and even more than they could afford, and they did it voluntarily. They urgently begged us for the privilege of sharing in this service for the saints. They even exceeded our expectations, because they gave themselves to the Lord first and to us, consistent with God's will. ... You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although he was rich, he became poor for your sakes, so that you could become rich through his poverty.

Paul spent years collecting money from his churches for believers in Jerusalem who were struggling, and he wanted the church in Corinth to take part. Corinth was a wealthy trade city, and Paul began his appeal by telling them about their neighbors to the north.

The churches in Macedonia, in cities like Philippi and Thessalonica, were poor and going through hard times of their own. Paul hadn't expected much from them, and he certainly hadn't pressured them. They came to him, begging for the chance to help, and they gave more than they could afford. Paul called their generosity a gift of God's grace, and he said it began when they gave themselves to the Lord first.

Then Paul pointed the Corinthians to the grace that made generosity like that possible. Although Jesus was rich, he became poor for their sake, so that they could become rich through him. Every gift the Macedonians gave flowed from that one. John Wesley, writing on this verse, said that knowing this grace "is the true source of love."\*

Paul was saying that our giving begins with what Christ gave us. Jesus held nothing back for our sake. We're called to give ourselves to him first and let our generosity grow from there.

- The Macedonian churches were poor and going through hard times, and still they begged Paul for the chance to help. When has giving felt like a joy to you, and what made it feel that way?
- Paul held up the Macedonians as an example of generous love for the Corinthians to follow. Who in your life has shown you what generous love looks like, and what did you learn from watching them?

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, you left the glory of heaven and became poor for my sake. Thank you for a grace I could never earn. Help me give myself to you first, and let my giving grow out of what you have given me. Make me generous with my time, my money, and my care, whether I have a little or a lot. Amen.*

\* John Wesley, Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament, on 2 Corinthians 8:9 (1755).

We give our sympathies to:

**Matt Bloom** following the death of **Chuck Bloom** (father) who passed away on **10/6/2026**