

“Who is My Neighbour?”. Luke 10: 29.

A curious question from a Lawyer, an expert in the Law of Moses. It had been revealed, in his discussion with Jesus, that this Lawyer understood what was required of him; to love his neighbour as himself. Christ confirmed he had read the law and understood it. So why this question “Who is my neighbour?”

It is the sort of question people love to throw out there and debate and mull over and discuss. It gives the impression such people are serious about discovering the correct meaning of the Word. Perhaps, but it is more likely that it masks a sinister reluctance to actually obey that same Word. Be honest, what do you find the hardest? Knowing what God is saying to you through His Word, or doing it without hesitation or reserve?

Luke tells us the motive of this lawyer, so we do not need to wonder; he was seeking to justify himself. In other words, he was uncomfortable with how this law made him look. In order to maintain his good reputation he was prepared to compromise the true intent of this commandment. I suppose splitting hairs is what lawyers do best?!

Well, not just lawyers. Many, going by the name of Christ, want to minimise what they believe the Word is saying. They seem to be more concerned with “how little can I do and still maintain my reputation before my fellow man?”. Rather our concern ought to be to kill off the lawyer in us all and go 'all out' for Christ. How much can I do? How much time can I redeem for His purposes? How much of all I do can I do to His glory? How holy can I strive to be, by His grace?

Our Lord has told you plainly what His thoughts about lukewarmness in professing Christians; Rev. 3: 16. They who love Him in truth will hear and learn and seek that zeal He so delights to see. They will obey Him and be zealous and show it through repentance.

Let's pray each one of us would be zealous. Let's stir one another up to love and good works. Let's not waste the little time left in debating and begin doing.