

November 20, 2011

## Monday

Luke 10:29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

God is very concerned about your interaction with your neighbor. The Old Testament lays down rules and regulations for care and kindness. Boundaries are to be observed, both of property and of family. "Thou shalt not commit adultery," "thou shalt not steal," even "thou shalt not bear false witness," are obligations to your neighbor. Still, it didn't take long for men and women to define so narrowly the concept of neighbor as to make the rules only applicable to the people closest to them. Jesus expanded the definition of "neighbor" to include everybody you meet, even your hated enemy. He then reminded us that to love God means you have to love your neighbor. Who is your neighbor? How are you loving him or her?

## Tuesday

Is. 66:24 "They will go forth and look on the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die and their fire will not be quenched."

I wonder what would happen if we could smell hell? What do you think. The rotting, burning flesh, the nauseating smell of sulfur. I wonder what would happen if we could hear hell? Those crying out for relief from pain. Physical? Sure, but more terrible still the cry of mental anguish that understands there will be no relief, no love, no grace extended. What if we could smell hell on the clothes of the lost, as we passed by the waitress, the kid on the street, the young parents leading their own children away from God? I think it would be a good thing, for only then would we realize how many of the people we meet every day are headed to hell, and maybe, just maybe we would care enough to show them Jesus.

## Wednesday

Prov. 3:28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you.

The number one reason given for attending church? "Someone invited me to come." The number one reason given for not attending church? "No one invited me to come." If believers would just notice those around them and genuinely, caringly invite them to attend *with them*, many of the people along the way would actually consider coming to church. You probably read a Proverb like this and apply its instructions to food or clothing. But what if we applied it to our knowledge of Jesus? How are we going to give account to God for all the people we see, if we do not care enough to give them what we have? To give them Jesus?

## Thursday

Prov. 3:25-26 Do not be afraid; For the LORD will be your confidence.

When Jesus is our confidence we have peace. When we aim to sincerely follow Him, to know Him, and most importantly, to obey Him, He will be our protector, director, and coordinator. When we place our confidence in Him worry vanishes and peace prevails. Others who do not know Him well cannot understand, but "the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7) Do not be afraid!

## Friday

Prov. 3:31 Do not envy a man of violence; do not choose any of his ways.

We live in a world upside down where evil is prevailing and good is held down. If you are not careful you will find yourself flipped about as well, envying the evil man and wishing you could enjoy the fruits of a godless life. Do not forget the inheritance promised to those who follow Jesus or the reward of the unrighteous. Many will walk in the prosperity of sin for a few years only to suffer the consequences of their lives for eternity. What is more, they will influence others for hell as well. And their suffering will be multiplied because their children will follow.