

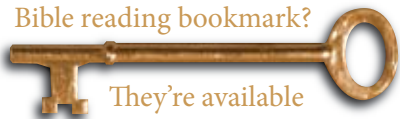
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...where he calmly continued to work on the water pump.

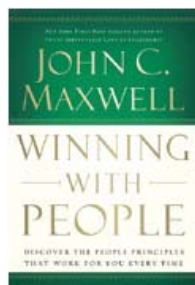
The intimidated schoolteacher was too dumbfounded to talk. Especially when she read the paralyzing words on the back of his leather jacket: "Hell's Angels - California." As he finished the task, she finally got up the courage to say, "Thanks so much," and carry on a brief conversation.

Noticing her surprise at the whole ordeal, he looked her straight in the eye and mumbled, "Don't judge a book by its cover. You may not know who you're talking to." With that, he smiled, closed the hood on the truck, and straddled his Harley. With a wave, he was gone as fast as he had appeared.

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Golden Key Discussion Questions

- 1) Share a story when you were helped by a "Good Samaritan" or when you were someone else's "Good Samaritan." Can you think of a time you passed someone by you knew you should have stopped for? Read the story again in Luke 10.
- 2) Do you live looking outward or do you pass by people? Would your friends describe you as someone who cares about others and notices their needs? How do we overcome our battle with self-absorption?
- 3) Are you a people lifter? Do you take people up or bring them down in your relationships? In what ways? Who does God want you to consider as your neighbor? How could we love those neighbors this week?

SERMON NOTES: WEEK TWO



Good Samaritans Can Come in Strange Clothing

Dodie Gadiant, a schoolteacher for thirteen years, decided to travel across America and see the sights she had taught about. Traveling alone in a truck with camper in tow, she launched out. One afternoon rounding a curve on I-5 near Sacramento in rush-hour traffic, a water pump blew on her truck. She was tired, exasperated, scared, and alone. In spite of the traffic jam she caused, no one seemed interested in helping.

Leaning up against the trailer, she prayed, "Please God, send me an angel...preferably one with mechanical experience." Within four minutes, a huge Harley drove up, ridden by an enormous man sporting long, black hair, a beard, and tattooed arms. With an incredible air of confidence, he jumped off and, without even glancing at Dodie, went to work on the truck. Within another few minutes, he flagged down a larger truck, attached a tow chain to the frame of the disabled Chevy, and whisked the whole 56-foot rig off the freeway onto a side street...

(continued on back...)

Looking Outward
September 20/21, 2008

Jesus Christ has the keys for winning relationships. But we must use them to unlock them! Luke 6:27-31, 37-38

Golden Key: *Treat others the way you want them to treat you.*

Luke 6:31 - Do to others as you would like them to do to you

The first key to building winning relationships is to look inward and ask yourself, "How do I really want to be treated?" As you understand that, you will also understand how others want to be treated. As you treat them that way, you can start a positive chain reaction in your relationships and show them how to treat you. That can produce a win-win in your relationships.

Golden Key Week Two: Looking Outward. Luke 10:25-37

Luke 10:27 - *"You love the Lord your 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."*

1) God designed every person to receive His love and in return to love Him.

God looked outward from heaven and saw us dying in our sinfulness and sent His Son to save us so we could receive His eternal love and forgiveness. His Spirit in us continually wants to fill us with His love. All He wants in return is our undivided love expressed in worship and obedience.

1 John 4:7-11, 19-21 - *Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other... We love each other because he loved us first. If someone says, "I love God," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters*

1 John 5:3 - *Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. Isaiah 58:5-8*

2) We love God by looking outward and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Their needs become our needs and their problems become our problems. We don't pass by on the other side but we get involved in loving and blessing them even at our own expense. Instead of living self-absorbed lives we live looking outward for the needs of our neighbors.

The Big Picture Principle: The entire population of the world, with one minor exception, is composed of others. We win in relationship by first looking inward but then looking and loving outward.

3) Elevator Principle: "We can lift people up or take people down in our relationships."

The Good Samaritan lifted up a total stranger out of his misery by refusing to bypass him but caring for him in his pain. He alone developed a winning relationship with "his neighbor" and his example challenges to ask two key questions:

Who does God want me to love as my neighbor?

How does God want to use me to lift them up?

4) I believe God wants us to love our neighbors locally and then expand globally.

His love in us gives us the capacity to love an ever-increasing neighborhood; my physical neighborhood, my work neighbors, my school neighbors, my community neighbors, my county neighbors, my country neighbors, and even other-country neighbors.

5) We can lift up and love our neighbor by:

1. Praying faithfully for them and blessing them.
2. Cultivating a relationship with them, a smile, a compliment, cup of coffee, a word of encouragement, a small act of service.
3. Caring for their real needs especially in times of crisis (ie. physical, emotional, and spiritual.)
4. Sharing Christ in love

If we all did this we could win our communities, our country, even the nations. Love knows no limitations, Love never fails.

The Golden Key:

Luke 10:27 – *You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind. And, Love your neighbor as yourself.*