

# The Lakeside



## Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday October 9, 2023 - I Peter 4:10

**10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Read I Peter 4 for meditation and inspiration.



## ***THE RABBI TEACHES THE REAL LAW AND ITS PURPOSE***

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

Back in the late 1980s, a popular television newscaster delivered the commencement address at Duke University. He based the speech on the Ten Commandments. The Dean of the Chapel at Duke said later, "It was the most popular address ever given at a Duke commencement. In a nutshell, the newscaster said that if you look at all the problems we have in the modern world, most of them are attributable to our failure to follow the Ten Commandments. Then he went right down the list. Don't kill! ... Don't steal! ... Don't commit adultery! ... Don't worship false gods! ... Don't bear false witness! If all of us would follow those Commandments, what's wrong with the world and ourselves would be put right. And all the graduates and their parents loved it."

I suppose we preachers could preach that, but the problem is that it can lead to a serious misconception about the Christian Message. If Jesus is coming through to us, we know that it's not enough for us to promise not to lie or cheat or steal. "I have come to uphold those laws," Jesus said. But then He added, "There's more to My ministry than that. I have come to fulfill the Law. I have come to enrich your understanding of the basis of the Law. I have come to demonstrate for you the spirit that underlies the Law. He made this clear on one special occasion Luke 10 records it:

**The Parable of the Good Samaritan** *And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"*

*He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"*

So he answered and said, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’”

And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”

But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among<sup>1</sup>thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”

And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Nothing more can be added so I say AMEN!

In God’s Great Love Story,



Roger

**FOLLOWING FATHER’S EXAMPLE** A Joyful ‘toon by Mike Waters



Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. EPHESIANS 5:1-2 NIV

www.joyfultoons.com © 2015 Michael D. Waters



**“Thank you. My insurance doesn’t include roadside service.”**



**“I’m part of God’s TLC plan.”**