

Love as Neighbour

ICT Glasgow
Living Theology 2021

Gospel according to Luke 10:
34-36 ~ *Fratelli tutti* n° 56:

“He [the Samaritan] went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper and said: ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend’.”



Dr. Jan Jans

Love as Neighbour

ICT Glasgow
Living Theology 21 May 2021

1. Love as neighbour: a reduction of the double commandment? or 'Where is God...'?

Intersection: moral theology to the rescue?

2. On resources to become neighbour
3. Love as neighbour: a mystagogy?

1. Love as neighbour: a reduction of the double commandment? - or: 'Where is God...?'

Synoptic Gospels: similarities & differences

Marc 12: 28 **Q** “Which is the first?”; 12:29 **A** “The first is...”;
12: 31 **A** “The second is...”

Matthew 22: 36 **Q** “What is the greatest?”; 22: 28 **A** “This is the greatest and the first”; 22: 29 **A** “The second is **like** it / **similar** to it [the same] – *deutera de homoia aute*”

Luke 10: 26 **Q** “To inherit eternal live?”; **A** 10: 27 “Love the Lord ... and your neighbour as yourself”; 10: 29 **Q** “And who is my neighbour” => 10:37 – **A** The one who became neighbour → **A** “Go, and do likewise”

=> Where is the first / the greatest = ‘God’ in ‘love as neighbour’? Is this still ‘faith-ethics’...?

1. *Love as neighbour*: a reduction of the double commandment? - or: 'Where is God...?'

Matthew – Luke – Paul: love your neighbour

Matthew 5: 43 -- Keeping the Law... “You shall love your neighbour (and hate your enemies)”

Matthew 19:19 “What good to do to earn eternal life... Keep commandments [all ‘secular’] and you shall love your neighbour as yourself... sell possessions, give to the poor, follow me”

Luke 18:18 -- “How to inherit eternal life... keeping the commandments [all ‘secular’], sell what you have, give away to the poor and follow me”

Romans 13; 8-10 -- Commandments [all ‘secular’] “are summed up in the one rule: Love your neighbour as yourself”

Galatians 5: 14 ”For the whole law can be summed up in a single commandment: love your neighbour as yourself”

Intersection: moral theology to the rescue?

Jack Mahoney: “[M]oral theology is faith in God seeking expression in behaviour” (*The Making of Moral Theology. A Study of the Roman Catholic Tradition*, Oxford 1987, 340)

Klaus Demmer: “Moral theology is the scientific study of God’s salvific action on behalf of humanity, which in its significance for the ethical behaviour of human beings is hermeneutically systematized and argumentatively presented” (*Das Selbstverständnis der Moraltheologie*, in: Wilhelm Ernst (Hrsg.), *Grundlagen und Probleme der heutigen Moraltheologie*, Würzburg 1989, 10)

Louis Janssens: “It is the task of moral theology to explain how, according to our Christian revelation, our relation to God affects all our doings” (*Particular Goods and Personalist Morals*, in: *Ethical Perspectives* 6 (1999) 55-56)

=> ‘God’ is clearly at the central stage – but how does this relate to ‘ethical behaviour’ or ‘all our doings’...?

* Matthew: the first & the second commandment are *homoio*...

* Luke on eternal life: love of God & neighbour => become neighbour & do likewise...

Suggestion: the first and greatest commandment which is *homoio* to the second, is reciprocal to the way how to reach eternal life which comes down to ‘becoming neighbour’

So: ‘two sides of the same coin’ -- you cannot have the one WITHOUT the other = you only have the one BY the other, even if you don’t know ~ the *anonymous* Christ present in “the least of these brothers of mine” = **e v e r y b o d y** ! – ‘no questions asked...’

1. Love as neighbour: a reduction of the double commandment? - or: 'Where is God...?'

Bringing the issues together:

Luke 10:37 homoio Matthew 25: 31-46...

~ *Fratelli tutti* n° 82; 84-85: "I must myself be a neighbour to others"; ...
"I was a stranger and you welcomed me" ... "[The words of Jesus] compel us to recognize Christ himself in each of our abandoned or excluded brothers and sisters"

~ *Angelus* 22 November 2020 ~ Mtt 25: 31-46 'at the end of the world':
"Let us remember the parable of the Good Samaritan. ... I, before my brothers and sisters in need, am I indifferent like the priest, like the Levite and look the other way? I will be judged on this: on how I drew near, how I looked on Jesus present in those in need".

=> on if & how I became neighbour

2. On resources to become neighbour

Fratelli tutti n° 165: “Even the Good Samaritan, for example, needed to have a nearby inn that could provide the help that he was personally unable to offer” (~ Rembrandt on cover slide)

Lk 10: 34-35: bandage, oil, wine, his own beast, two silver pieces, repay...

Mtt 25: 31 etc.: food, drink, shelter, clothing, care, visits...

=> What do we need to become neighbours?

- ‘material’ means...

- other people...!! ↔ any ‘individualistic’ approach

2. On resources to become neighbour

Cf. basic anthropological conditions of our human *spaciality* and *temporality* => we are able to actually become neighbour through ‘matter’ and ‘time’ but are at the same time limited: *toute choix est une sacrifice* => questions of °priority and °proportion...

Please note: everytime Pope Francis makes himself the neighbour to others – e.g. to the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb (*Fratelli tutti*, n° 5; n° 285) - he needs the ‘means’ to do so ~ the logic of becoming neighbour is also logistics!

“Neighbour-ism” = the practices of becoming yourself a neighbour to others, also by reflecting on ‘how’ = practical moral reasoning...

3. *Love as neighbour: a mystagogy?*

Mystagogy: “liturgical catechesis that aims to initiate people into the mystery of Christ” (CCC n° 1075)

Mystagogy: leading from the external signs to the internal spirituality of the sacraments

Love as neighbour as a mystagogy: the performative revelation of the mystery of the hidden/anonymous presence of God’s love in the world by becoming neighbour... [a sacrament?]

“By approaching and making himself present, the Samaritan crossed all cultural and historical barriers” (FT n° 81) => Love as neighbour is an intercultural and interreligious ‘sacrament’ and as such ‘characteristic’ for Christian ethics...