Our scripture comes from Luke 10:30-37. While you’re finding that, I have a little poem “My face in the mirror isn't wrinkled or drawn. My house isn't dirty, the cobwebs are gone. My garden looks lovely and so does my lawn. I think I might never put my glasses back on.” My grandmother used to say – let me put my eyes on when she’d put her glasses on. To see the discipleship opportunities Jesus is offering, we must put our eyes on – we mustn’t look and fail to act. To see and fail to act is sin – James 4:17 tells us that. Inaction is sin.

**Luke 10:30-37 30Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. 31Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. 33But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34So 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. 35On 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.’ 36So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” 37And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”**

We’ve been studying what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. When we seek to be a disciple, we are seeking to mimic the Master. We strive to be as much like Him as possible in all of our ways. He is our Master Copy, the One we seek to reflect. We’ve learned the recipe Jesus left – deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. We mustn’t get this backwards – self-denial must come first. Doing what He calls us to do can only come when we push self aside and take on a servant’s heart.

In verse 30, we see that the man takes the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. In those days, it was a notoriously dangerous road! Jerome, in the 5th century, referred to it as the Bloody Way. It was steep, rocky, had blind turns. It’s so narrow in places that two people can barely pass. It was well known the dangers. Jesus chose this road intentionally… the temptation would be to criticize the man – why did he go alone? Didn’t he invite this trouble on himself? Maybe he got what he deserved for making such a bad decision.

In the story, we see three men come by – a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan. Each were given the same opportunity. Each responded in a different way. The Priest saw and immediately steered to the other side. He didn’t ask – what will happen to this man if I don’t help? His heart was only concerned with – what will happen to me if I do help? His concern was completely for self – he didn’t want to get involved. He knew people would criticize him, because that’s what people do. They know almost none of the facts, but they let their criticizing tongues free.

We see the Levite. The Levite comes over, looks, and makes a decision not to help. He too had no thought of what will happen to this man if I don’t help, but instead only considered the inconvenience he’d endure if he did.

True discipleship is almost always messy! We must be ready to get our hands dirty, spend a little money, give of our time, show up when it’s not convenient, listen when we have other things to do. Jesus didn’t have office hours – He didn’t demand that we see Him between 8 and 5 Monday through Thursday. He meets us where we are, how we are, and when we are! A disciple of Jesus must do the same for the broken that we are seeking.

Some Jesus is seeking have made bad decisions! But so have we! They’ve taken roads that are dangerous, but there’s a good chance Jesus found us on one of those roads. They’ve made mistakes and they’re in a mess – wounded and weary, they need real help… not always convenient. Sometimes it’s going to take more than praying and leaving the person on the roadside to die. As disciples, we must be willing to bind wounds, pay the way, and love the person even when the person cannot respond in kind.

As disciples of Jesus, we have received an undeserved gift we can never repay. Jesus didn’t find us in showroom condition, shined, and clean. He found us filthy, unworthy, unqualified and completely unfit for His service. Isaiah tells us that – our best deeds are like filthy rags to God. He showed us mercy. He found us broken and bruised, bleeding and pleading, begging for help laying there on the side of that road we had chosen, and He helped anyway. As we seek disciples, do we seek only the ones who deserve our help, the ones who are clean, the ones who are easy to love, the ones who took no wrong roads? Well, I certainly hope not! We seek the lost… on the highways, in the hedgerows… we climb hills and descend into valleys… we seek disciples even when it costs, even when the criticism comes… because Jesus sought us first.

If discipleship costs nothing, I question if it’s true discipleship. If discipleship is always convenient, I question if the other side of the road is being used. If discipleship always feels good, I wonder if it’s only a look that was spared. Jesus spared no sacrifice to serve. May we spare no sacrifice in our service to others that we may be more like Him each day.