

Loving Others as Yourself

by Billy Strachan

True religion manifests itself in loving your neighbor as yourself, and it requires dying to the old independent 'me' and allowing God to change you day by day.

Duration: 44:13

Scripture: Matthew 22:39, Galatians 2:20, James 2:1-17

Topics: "Loving Others"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker reflects on the verse 'The life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.' The speaker discusses the concept of being dead and how it can be seen as a cop-out because if one is truly dead, they don't have to worry about anything. The speaker also talks about the law and how it proves that no matter how well one may think they are doing, they will never be able to reach heaven on their own. The sermon concludes with the message of God's love and the importance of showing mercy and love to others.

Transcript

Let's turn to the epistle of James and we are at chapter two and we are now seeing the things that you can do to alleviate your own suffering from the mental anguish of the internal torments and temptations of the mind processes. And we saw that not only was there a good gift of a sufficient saviour in your heart to draw upon to combat those inner temptations, but there are certain things you can do practically and one of them is to occupy yourself positively in serving others with pure religion. Giving yourself to those that are in need, those that require help, those that require love, those that require anything.

Occupy giving and you will find that it will rebound in your getting. And then we started in chapter two noting that true religion, pure religion manifests itself in three ways and we saw first and foremost that it manifests itself without respect of persons. And we are not to become partial in ourselves and start judging people and having evil thoughts on people as to whether this one or that one merits our friendship, merits our love, merits our attention, merits our salvation, merits a word of witness.

It is none of your business. All people have to hear, all people have to get to know and God is no respecter of persons. And then in verse five it works with God's choice in mind.

It works with God's choice in mind. Listen my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? You will

balance out any imbalance in your own life if you will keep it in mind that the gospel is designed for the poorest of people. And remember that very often the reason for the poorness in spirit, poorness in wealth, poorness in life of some people is that that is also a manifestation of sin.

Some people just are bad managers of life and no matter if you went into their bank, cleared up all their debts, gave them a thousand pounds deposit and said that's yours, I've cleared everything, there's a fresh start, by 24 hours gone they'd be in debt again. It just is a manifestation of sin. There are people that are bad managers of wealth, there are people that do not have the ability to run life and do things properly and yet they need the gospel too.

That is how sin is trying to spoil that person and they have to become people that are reached by the word and never try in getting a person like that into the kingdom then try to get them out of that area of life. Leave God to decide whether he moves people out of that area because even if you take a sophisticated case like for instance Hollywood. I had been the guest speaker in the Paramount Warner Brothers and Desilu Studios, Universal Studios for two or three years running back in the early 60s just to move around the sets and speak to the stars about Jesus Christ and it was interesting to hear some of them saying it's amazing that God has had to bring a man across the ocean to tell this nation that has the biggest missionary outreach to the world with the gospel to tell us about Jesus Christ because nobody from America comes to Hollywood to minister to us in Hollywood because they just reckon we are unredeemable and if we do get saved they say the proof of our being born again is we'll quit the industry tomorrow but they don't realize that until the moment of our conversion we were seeped in millions of dollars of debt because we live in credit of what the next film is going to bring in.

We've never met Christians that have said yet well now that you're converted leave the film industry and we'll pay your debts. No, they just say stop but then leave them in poverty and very often the reason God keeps some people saved and inside that industry is that you're not going to get into it to reach them so he has to keep the saved of that industry in the industry to reach people within the industry and very often you'll find people who are converted in a poor area of the world are quite content with their poverty to know that they're saved and to know that they're on the way to heaven but still be quite happy in their poverty and are very acceptable to the other poor people in bringing them the gospel because you won't go there and they're able to reach within their own grouping and yet if we simply get them saved and immediately pull them out because we think an evidence of salvation is that you become middle class, upper class, rich, clean and never have any of these kind of a setbacks you just it's a lie. It's an absolute lie.

I think it's hilarious when you meet a chief in a jungle who's wearing three feathers in his nose talking to me about the Lord Jesus and giving me a hug before I fly away and thanking God that he'd lived long enough to meet his brother in the Lord and I've often wondered I wonder how a brethren assembly would react if he walked into a morning meeting in Britain. I know that these things are related and they are relative to their own particular situation and of course we wouldn't a man like that walking into a morning service but it makes it hilarious when you go into denominational churches in our sophisticated society and find somebody at the door taking somebody aside and telling them you can't be Christian if you dress like this or you dress like that or you're not wearing this or you're not wearing that or you're not doing this and you're not doing that because quite honestly it has nothing whatsoever to do with being born again and to make these things an absolute requirement for salvation is a sin against the Word of God and one has to keep it in mind that you don't practice your faith with respect of persons. You practice it always keeping in mind God's choice.

It's designed to reach the sinfulest and poorest of people not the good people not the good people and I've often told people in charge of this place if all I'm going to get is 200 students that are good that sit down and just take notes and go home at the end I'm quitting. There's no stretch there for me. I enjoy putting wrecks together.

I enjoy the people that stretch me to the limit and trying to love them and help them and see them through their problems but it's so much more convenient if people are not problematic. It's so much more convenient if you've just a bunch of people that do everything right then it means you can get your wage with no strain but that's not the gospel and we know that this place attracts people that come not because they want the Bible because they're in very deep need and we're here to help you in that need and attempt to bring you a means of security in Christ not security in system and the gospel is designed with you and choice. There are those of you still convinced that you're too poor a Christian and too poor in spirit to ever be picked to be used by God for anything.

I'm sorry it's just you he's designed it for and it's his choice but you have despised the poor. Verse 6 here was the attitude of that early church. You've despised the poor and yet you don't like it when it comes to yourself.

Do not rich men oppress you and draw you before the judgment seats. Do you like it? Do you like it in Roman Jerusalem and Roman Palestine when these people can march you into a court and grab all your worldly goods and take them away from you? No you don't like it. Well why practice it on others? Do not they blaspheme the worthy name by which you are called? And so now it moves into the third evidence of how true religion manifests itself and that is in loving your neighbor as yourself.

In loving your neighbor as yourself. If you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture. If you want an air of dignity, an air of majesty about your Christian experience, if you want to walk around like one of the lords of the land with a crown on your head as a Christian it's quite simple.

Obey the royal law. The law that gives you dignity is that if you love your neighbor as yourself. If you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

You do well. But of course this is where the crunch comes. If you've never learned to love yourself you'll never learn to love others.

Everything you hate in you, you'll hate in them. And lots of Christians have not learned to love themselves. Yes but brother Billy my text is Galatians 2 20.

Have you ever had that? I've had that. When I mentioned repeatedly in one lecture one year about the necessity to learn to love yourself and to love others as yourself somebody came in and said to me but I don't agree with that. I don't love myself.

I said that's evident. They said but my text is Galatians 2 20. I said what does that say? It says I am crucified with Christ.

I'm dead. I said why don't you finish the text? They said what do you mean? I said Galatians 2 20 doesn't say I am crucified with Christ and put a full stop after it. No it goes further than that.

It says this I am crucified with Christ colon colon not full stop nevertheless nevertheless guess what? I live yet not I but Christ lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God

who loved me and gave himself for me. And so before you finish the verse you discover there are four eyes and three me's still kicking around after one of them died and I don't bite this bit that I am dead. You see that is a cop-out.

If you're dead then you don't have to worry about it do you? If you're really dead there's nothing in life that you can do if you're dead but you don't need to read the bible for proof that you're very much from dead. Go read the newspapers. You'll find that nearly every daily newspaper attests to the fact that so-called holy people who thought they were dead in Christ and complete new creatures and that nothing in life of any sin nature ever affected them.

Go read the newspapers and you'll find that you'll read reports of the vicar who ran away with somebody else's wife. The deacon who's been caught stealing the offering from the church. You'll find that all sorts of reports come in about the sin that bursts out in a congregation.

Well where did that come from? I thought they were dead. You see you have to understand this business about I am crucified with Christ and I've got to kill myself and die daily. Understand what's got to die but understand what's got to live.

I mean even Paul who wrote that in his own personal testimony in Philippians. If you just look in Philippians in chapter 3 he says there, finally my brethren rejoice in the Lord to write the same things to you to me indeed is not grievous but for you it's safe. Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

The people are around the faith that are just there to wreck the whole thing. For we are the circumcision which worship God in spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus and with no confidence in the flesh. Granted we don't trust ourselves that we have anything in ourselves to be anything of ourselves for God.

Without him we can do nothing. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh if anybody ever could say I deserve to be regarded as spiritual I Paul could. If any other man thinks he has whereof he might trust in the flesh I more.

If it was based on self-effort I could be at the top of the tree. Circumcised the eighth day of the stock of Israel of the tribe of Benjamin a Hebrew of the Hebrews is touching the law of Pharisee. How more religious could you get than that? Concerning zeal persecuting the church touching the righteousness which is in the law nobody could pick a hole in me.

Boy that's quite a claim. That I was so perfect as touching the law not one of my neighbours could point a finger at me and say ah we know something about you. But what things were gained to me because that's the only person that benefits from all that legalistic law keeping ritualistic binding of yourself into a system to prove you're holy to God and prove you're holy to other people is that it's self-gain.

But those things that were gained to me I counted loss for Christ. I chucked them all out the window for Christ.

Ye doubtless and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dumb that I may win Christ and be found in him not having my own righteousness which is of the law but that which is through the faith of Christ the righteousness which is of God by faith that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings being made conformable to his death if that by any means I might attain unto

the resurrection of the dead not as though I had already attained either were already perfect but I follow after if that I may apprehend that for which I am also apprehended of Christ Jesus brethren I count not myself to have reached the perfection goal but this one

thing I do here is my daily occupation forgetting those things that are behind I can never get yesterday back again it's gone and reaching forth unto those things which are before I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus and if you read all of that through you will find there were five eyes alive before he counted all a loss for Christ and there were ten eyes alive after he counted everything a loss for Christ yes there is an eye that is very much alive after you've counted everything a loss for Christ you're not just some numb zombie that's dead he says but I forget things behind and I'm pressing forward to things in front of me forget things behind reach things before forget things behind reach things before live today your heart was never created

to carry more than one day at a time some of you are nearly broken back this morning because you're still carrying yesterday sorry it's gone it's gone to the cross you can't get that back some of you are nearly broken back because you're thinking of tomorrow next week the week after what will you do next year and it's killing you stop it you're only made by God to carry today and take the next step into what's in front of you well what eye dies the eye that dies is the independent me that can be like God without God's help that's got to die daily when we get up in the morning and say there is nothing I can do to be like God and I hate and I render to death and will reckon dead today the eye that's rotten the eye that thinks that can stop its rottenness the eye that thinks it can improve

the eye that thinks it can be more loving than it was yesterday just give it a little fanning into life just train it a little bit more that's got to die well what's the eye that has to live and the eye that you have to love to the extent you love that eye and everybody else well that eye is the eye that's now the new creation of I plus Christ in me and the I plus Christ in me I'm now allowed to encourage and love so that I am dead to self-effort but I am now responding to my living savior and step by step throughout today I am reaching forth to allow him to be in and through me everything that will make me appear to be a different creature than I was before and I will be allowing him time to change me to rectify me to correct me to alter everything in my life and proceed from there and

let him take care of it all and when I am conscious of dying to the old independent me that's going to make me a good Christian for Jesus and turn around every morning and say let's get on with the process of taking the eye that you are now living in to live through and do through me something that you've never done and make me a be the kind of person I couldn't be by self-effort if you join that process you're then going to step back and allow that dignity to be practiced in other people you will then step back and stop being the big teachers and judges and shaping each other and say look if I'm giving him time to change me I'm going to give them him time to change them if I'm loving the eye that he's beginning to take a control of I'm going to love the eye and others that he's beginning

to take control of and when I see how long it took him to get me where I am then surely I'm going to take time to let them get where they are and that's the marvelous thing about developing and loving your neighbor as yourself you can see everything that's wrong in you and you quit trying to change it for God because you can't so you start allowing him day by day step by step temptation by temptation problem by problem pressure by pressure to be what you need in the midst of that to get you through it and when you do that you then start loving your neighbor as yourself you see them under pressure you love them and you encourage them to the Lord see them through it instead of whapping them on the head and tell them

to stop that just stop that don't do it and have you ever noticed that you

say don't do it to people about things you don't like them doing that you don't do you see if stealing doesn't bother you if you come across the thief here you'll say to them stop it can never understand why you do it just stop it and the reason you say that is you stealing just isn't a hang-up for you you never steal it's never been a problem for you the one thing you never do is steal and you can never understand somebody that steals so you just tell me stop it if I don't do you should be able not to do it and so you always tell people just legalistically to stop it I don't do that so stop it if I don't do it you should be able not to do it so stop it but then what you don't realize is that they could look at you and see something you can do that they'd never do are they going to have

the right to turn around to say to you and you stop that I'll stop my stealing if you stop your gossiping I'll stop my stealing if you stop your hating I'll stop my stealing if you stop the mental cruelty and they have a right to say to you so just stop it I'm never mentally cruel I might steal your purse but I'm never mentally cruel I might steal your purse but I never gossip so just stop gossiping but you discover you see we all have our weaknesses we're all weak but about different things and we have to learn to love the I that is now the new creation Christ in me a unit who's beginning the process of altering me into what he wants me to be and that's liberating because when he says let's make an adjustment he gives you the power to adjust you see my life my life when I became a

Christian I was like somebody that was standing outside the life the house of my life my life was like a big house and I couldn't get in the front door I couldn't get my heels onto the doorstep of my own life because of the spirit bottles all filling up the doorstep and when I turned to Christ as though he came along with a dustpan and a brush swept in all the bottles and put them in the trash can and left a lovely clean doorstep and I stepped on it boy I was a new creature in Christ look at me I wasn't like this yesterday I was down there in the gutter but today I'm walking on the doorstep of my life this is my life here I'm a new creature in Christ look I'm on the doorstep look I'm on the doorstep boy I bet you I'm ready to be a bishop by this time next week maybe they'll make me a

cardinal who knows might become a preacher a missionary because I've got a clean doorstep you know and I was so thrilled to bits with my clean doorstep and wanted everybody to see I was forgiven and a new person in Christ until one day there was a tap on my shoulder by the holy spirit and I turned and said yeah and when I turned around there was a door I thought Lord where did that door come from that's the door to your life really you mean I've got more than a doorstep oh yes you've got a whole house in there well how come I never noticed that door before you couldn't see it for bottles before now we've got rid of the bottle problem would you like to go in oh of course I'm a new creature in Christ in fact I'd like to invite the whole church into my house to see what wonderful person I am

now I'm a Christian and I flung the door open and looked in and jumped in and shut the door and bolted and barred it and I looked around the filthiest hallway imaginable I thought oh lord how long have I had a dirty filthy hallway like this look at the graffiti all over the wall when did I write that up when did I do that drawing look at that memory this is filthy god why didn't you tell me look we're getting rid of the bottles first now that we've got that done will you cooperate with me to clean up the hallway and I just had to settle down to get to work with the lord to clean up the hallway of my life until it was so clean and spotless I didn't mind leaving the front door open some days and hope that people would look in hello lovely clean hallway you know I was really improving I

really think I'll become an evangelist now I mean I've got more than a doorstep I've got a hallway until one day the spirit tapped me and I turned around and there was a door in the hallway so where did that door come from oh that's one of the doors on this floor doors you mean there's more than one room in this floor yes there's six doors off this corridor six yes on this floor floor you mean lord I'm not just a bungalow I said a lot of cottage I'm a house with upstairs oh lord well don't worry about it we're just starting in this room shall we now I don't know about you guys I've been a Christian 29 years and it was just a matter of about a month or so ago that the spirit tapped in fact there's a groove if I can show you there's a sort of hole there where he keeps poking his finger it's

developed down the years and when I turned around he showed me the elevator I don't know about you guys but I have a skyscraper maybe you managed to say one prayer and get your life all put together nice and sweet quick but I've discovered my house is like a skyscraper and the spirit says to me going up you know on every floor I got up there after 29 years I'm still discovering things in my life that he says now we're going to work on that and change this room work on that and change this room well I'll tell you one thing it's taught me down those 29 years the minute I see a baby Christian in a mess that's just got converted I learned to love my neighbor as myself I say to myself strike and take a look at you why are you like you are now knowing thoroughly what you are and that you're not

practicing as a lifestyle what you are why because lord of the work you've done in me for 29 years so what do you think about this new baby Christian hey just think what he's going to be like in 29 years time and you know I'll tell you it is always the first 30 years it's the hardest in a new convert after that they're not too bad to handle just wait 30 years with everybody you to Christ and you'll see a big difference in them learn to wait but you beggars won't wait 30 seconds with a new convert you want them to leap from birth right to where you are right now and that's impossible you don't bring a newborn baby home and give it a t-bone steak hasn't even got teeth couldn't come his way through the meat never mind the bone you don't do that you wait years for them to grow up and you love

them as you love yourself what is it you're loving yourself you love the fact you've discovered I can't do it I can't change myself I can't rectify myself I can't stop sinning I can't stop falling to my weaknesses I can't stop falling to temptations I can't stop all that rubbish god I hate the me that independently tries to stop to be holy for you that always ends up a wreck now I'm going to start loving the me that will look to you to live your law-keeping life in and through me for you and not me doing it for you and as I allow that process to proceed in my life every new Christian I come across I think I'll just put my arm around them I know they're in a mess I'll give them 30 years and let you do for them what you've done for me so I will practice true religion and love them as I love

myself I'll be patient with them I'll be long-suffering but you're going to have to be that for me lord because I can't produce that but just teach me the art of letting you the law keeper live your life in and through me to be a blessing to others and if you're occupied doing that there's plenty people around that are so weak in their faith that just need your strength that need the advanced stage you are at with the lord to be a means of encouragement to them and instead of simply saying don't do that stop it you need to sit down beside them and say do you know I used to be like that I used to do that he didn't yeah go I was afraid to tell you I thought you'd slap my face because you're so perfect and so holy to me I never thought you could be like that never knew you knew those sins

existed oh yeah I've done it all how come you're not doing it now because of him so let me love you until you learn to let him take control oh it's very practical very very practical instead of being over-occupied and

being judgmental and punishing people and expecting them to mature and hurry up and be as good as I am I don't know verse 8 if you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture there shall love thy neighbor as thyself you do well but if you have respect to persons you commit sin and are convicted of the law as transgressors for whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point he is guilty of all for he that said do not commit adultery said also do not kill now if you commit no adultery yet if thou kill thou have become a transgressor of the law if you're

telling people not to do one thing because that's wrong just always remember you're as bad yourself because you've done something else you're just the same boat none of us can keep the law but he can so we have to train each other to rely on him who is the law keeper to live his life through us so if today you don't steal it won't be because you've stopped it it's because you'll have said lord stop me from doing it be my honesty today and if he's practicing his honesty through you you won't go into somebody's door and take the money out because christ never steals but if you have success today and not stealing today it's not because you're improving it's because he the law keeper hasn't done that through you today and every one of us will find that we've got our achilles heel our weakness

and we're guaranteed to fail none of us will make the grade none of us can look at each other and say i'm better than you are i don't have those problems you have a problem and remember that the first sin was not adultery or murder the first sin was pride and it was committed in heaven and that's the most difficult one to deal with i'm so proud i'm not like other people but if he's just broken one of them you're a transgressor you're just as bad as the other a shoe is a shoe whether it's size 1 or size 20 as soon as a sin whether it's size 1 or size 20 there are no sizes to sin it's us that starts evaluating sin is bad worse very bad much worse than the last no no it's all same and we're all sinners so we all need to support and love one another and what better way to get out of a lot of

problems than to be over occupied and helping somebody with their problem and you'll never be able to keep the law so neither will they just as you rely on christ to get there they'll have to rely on christ to get there occupy yourself with that because you'll never do it yes but i'm so much better than others billy i think it's just a wee bit extra spurt and i'll make it no you won't it's like me deciding let's jump from morcambe promenade across to ireland and i take on a challenge how about it and i say fellas i think i'd love today in the afternoon to go down there have a bash at jumping from morcambe bay to ireland and you look at me and you say you and i say yeah i think i could do it and giles he chuckles and he says i'll do it these old men will never get off the ground i am

youthful light slender i think i could do it but then one of these bearded australians turns around and says listen digger you pommy you'll never do it but we guys that live in the south we guys that live on bondi beach and are the greatest we'll do it so all three of us go down there to the beach down there to morcambe promenade and giles says after me please i'll do that but the australian says no no i'll do it and so giles and i step back and nudge each other let him go and so he takes a run and a leap and he leaps off the end of the pier and we watch him going four feet and hitting the water and drowning and we watch the bubble and giles says i knew that i knew he was you know maybe he looked like he was young and had the stamina but with the weight he'd never get past four feet but

just watch me and so he goes to the end of the promenade and he starts a run and he advanced and he runs and he runs and he runs past me straight off the end of the promenade off the pier and he passes the australian's bubbles and says i knew it knew i could do better than you and he goes for another one foot and as he's lying there dying saying didn't i do much better i look at their bubbles and i say you young

things you don't know what it's like it takes maturity age so i go to lancaster and go up the top of the hill and i start from there and i run all the way to morcambe and i get straight off the end of the pier and i pass that last australian bubble and i pass that last english bubble and i go for another three inches now as i'm lying there dying saying didn't i do well i come to

one conclusion i might have done a little bit better than the others but i still never got there and that's exactly what the law is going to prove to you that you might be able to look around this room and say i've done better than others but i regret to announce you will never get there the law has often been described like a huge chain that's fastened to a post inside the throne room of heaven dangling down through the atmosphere to the earth and you're on your way up to get into which link of the chain can you do without and still get there and the answer is none no matter what chain link you remove it will not be long enough to let you get there it will break and so if you pride yourself you've never murdered don't it just means you haven't had the chance but you can you've never

stolen don't it just means you haven't yet but you can and everybody has to confess they're capable of breaking the law and indeed they do break the law so learn to love your neighbor as yourself understand they are just as weak as you are and you're just as weak as they are therefore we both need to encourage each other in hope in christ to get us there so speak ye and so do as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty for he shall have judgment without mercy that showed no mercy and mercy rejoices against judgment instead of being over occupied and being judgmental and judging everybody learn to be merciful give them the opposite of what they deserve the opposite of what they deserve and if you see somebody that's irritating you in school today and you wish you could slap their

face give them the opposite of what they deserve hug them instead if you see somebody that should be thrown out for their behavior give them the opposite of what they deserve keep them that's mercy mercy is the opposite of what you deserve it's not what you've earned mercy is where you agree that what you should get is what you should get but you don't you get the opposite the finest example of mercy in the bible is in Mephibosheth the last living relative of king Saul and when most of the household of Saul had been destroyed and David took over the throne he asked if there was anybody left and they said Mephibosheth they said go and fetch him and all the way to the palace he was convinced he was going to be executed came in and he was lame cripple and he crawled in and lay flat in his

face in the ground before king David and he expected to feel a foot on his neck but instead he found fingers under his chin and David lifted his face up and looked straight into it and said you're going to live and not only are you going to live you're going to eat at my table every day from now on you live in the palace with me that's mercy that is mercy the opposite of what you deserve and much more added on top graciousness poured in as well and we are being encouraged here to be practical in our faith and it is a means of alleviating your own mental torments and temptations and sufferings if you're occupied in loving others as yourself in other words if you find somebody that has a particular sin and in a certain set of circumstances they're going to practice it have you ever thought

of going and spending an evening with them so they didn't have those empty hours where they could go out and do that that's love your neighbor as yourself that's loving your neighbor as yourself when somebody's so lonely they could go and do something daft to switch off your choice of tv programs and go and be with them i remember once in the air force watching an officer come in and he came into the mess and he sat down with a flop in a chair and he had a half pint pot of beer in his hand from the bar and i could tell he was low and i could tell he was really depressed and feeling exhausted from overwork and so

i went in and i said to him what's the matter with you and i fed up and tired and i said well why not go and do something i have nothing to do where are the rest i said oh they've

gone to the cinema and i said why don't you go to the cinema and he just turned around and said i have nobody to go with i said go wash your face and i'll go with you and he looked at me he said you'll go with me to the cinema in those days christians never went to a cinema he said you'll go with me and i said yeah go and wash your face and i'll go in he got up and he went and washed his face came back we got on a bike cycled up to the camp cinema and went in i can't remember what this picture was i think that's life off road thing but i was there in the dark beside him we were there sitting beside each other jammed up against each other in a crowd and at the end we came out walked home and chatted and talked and i said good night to him you know it was only a matter of days he came and

said to me i'd like to go to church with you i want to know about your faith and i said why this is because it's the first time i've known anybody that would do something that everybody else would criticize them for doing in order to break my loneliness to think that you as a christian and i've heard people saying that they saw you coming out of the cinema and criticizing you to think that you would suffer that criticism to spend the night with me when i was feeling really lonely that meant something to me and i want to know what's given you the courage to withstand the gossip and to give and share your life with me i didn't even know i was doing it i didn't plan it that way i just said hey i'll go with you let's go i never thought he has a good opportunity i've never planned witness in

fact you see i never read anything like that in a christian handbook on how to win people how to do evangelism go with them to the cinema you won't find that in any of the great handbooks on evangelism there are things that you do that you can't plan and that's god loving your neighbor as yourself just be a wee bit more merciful in life and you'll see the difference go and have a cup of tea

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/23/SID23843.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/billy-strachan/loving-others-as-yourself/>

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