

11 October 2026

Rhythms of Grace. Witness: The Outward Invitation

Witnessing for Jesus is something He clearly commanded us to do but, for most followers, we find this difficult. We hope the way we live our daily lives is a clear statement of witness, including demonstrating the love God has placed within us by sharing it with our neighbours. We look at two aspects of witnessing.

Reflect

Mark 12:28-34 – The Greatest Commandment.

The Gospels do not often show the Jewish Teachers of the Law in a good light, but here is the exception. This Teacher has come to hear Jesus, and agrees and accepts what he hears Jesus say. Asked to name one commandment, Jesus names two; to love God totally without reservation and adds loving your neighbour to be of equal importance. The teacher, now pupil, realises that the religious practices given priority by the temple authorities are misaligned with God's most fundamental law.

Luke 10:25-37 – “Go and do likewise.” We start with Jesus again stating the two prime commandments, but this time the Jewish expert has unworthy intentions, hoping to catch Jesus out. As before, the illustration Jesus uses to explain “who is my neighbour” exposes the mistaken priorities of the priest and the Levite, prioritising to follow the ‘law’ to keep themselves ‘ceremonially clean’ rather than choosing to help the injured man. Embarrassingly the expert cannot avoid accepting that the Samaritan made the wisest and correct choice, showing love for his neighbour, despite not having an education in Jewish law.

Respond

Loving God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind is not an ambiguous command. One might argue that it leaves no time for anything else, unless of course, we can make it part and parcel of all our daily doings. Then all we do would have elements of the presence of God, and become an intentional act of witness.

Thoughts to dwell on this week – choose to focus on one or two

What distinguishes a Christian act of kindness from all acts of kindness? How do people know it was an act of Christian witness?

In what ways do people observe you to be a Christian specifically, rather than simply a ‘good person?’

Is it time to review your daily activities, hoping to find ways to follow more closely the greatest command amongst doing everything else?

Is following Jesus teaching a joy or a duty?

Prayer

Thank you, Father, that by your grace I am committed to Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Guide me into more ways of shining His light into all I say and do, and thereby increase my effectiveness as the witness you call me to be. Amen