

“Parable of the Good Samaritan”

Introduction – Luke 10:25-37

Today we dig into one of the most well known of the parables! The parable of the Good Samaritan!

So let's dig in!

I. THE SETTING (VERSES 25-29)

Luke 10:25-29

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” **26** “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” **27** He answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ ; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” **28** “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” **29** But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

An expert in the law – a lawyer – these were people who knew the Jewish and Rabbinical law thoroughly.

The Greek word for **TEST** here is not necessarily mean or evil. This may have been a very sincere question from a very sincere person!

The question **“WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?”** That's a question every preacher of the Gospel would love to hear! 😊

So Jesus asks the expert in the law **“WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE LAW? HOW DO YOU READ IT?”** So Jesus is

looking to see if He truly comprehended the law as God intends and His answer is spot on!

Luke 10:27-28 (NIV)

27 He answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ ; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” **28** “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

Jesus had taught at another situation about this very thing:

Matthew 22:34-40 (NIV)

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. **35** One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: **36** “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” **37** Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Believing in God and putting into practice the faith we are called to! Jesus taught about what is necessary for eternal life:

John 3:3-7 (NIV)

3 In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” **4** “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” **5** Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

Paul declared:

Romans 10:8-13 (NIV)

8 But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: **9** That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. **11** As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” **12** For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, **13** for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

James made it clear:

James 2:14-19 (NIV)

14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? **15** Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. **16** If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? **17** In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. **18** But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. **19** You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

Now back to our passage:

Luke 10:29 (NIV)

29 BUT HE WANTED TO JUSTIFY HIMSELF, SO HE ASKED JESUS, “AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?”

So the expert in the law sounded like he thought he was obeying the first command about loving God but his keeping of the second command depended on how do you define my neighbor?

So here is Jesus' answer:

II. THE PARABLE (VERSES 30-37)

A. THE ATTACK

Luke 10:30 (NIV)

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was notorious for crime and robbery like most of our big cities. So the hearers would understand this.

The historian Josephus stated "that road was famous for its lurking dangers, especially robbers.

B. THE PRIEST AND THE LEVITE

Luke 10:31-32 (NIV)

31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. **32** So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

Evidently priests and Levites were common travelers of this road and you would think that these servants of the Lord would have had compassion on their Jewish brother lying in this awful situation. But they passed by on the other side.

The ones who by their ministry and place in society that you would have thought would help for whatever reason went around the terribly wounded man.

Some possible excuses:

“I’m too busy, I have to get to the temple!”

“I might get my clothes dirty.”

“I don’t know first aid.”

“Wonder what he did to deserve that?”

“I’ll pray for him.”

C. THE SAMARITAN

Luke 10:33-35 (NIV)

33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. **34** He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. **35** The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

The Jews and the Samaritans normally did not like each other at all! The Jewish people regarded Samaritans as apostate people who had sold their spiritual birthright. They were Jewish in background but mixed in with the pagan cultures around them. You could use a terrible term “half breeds” to describe them from the traditional Jewish perspective. The historian Josephus and Jewish tradition trace their origin to the captivity of the Northern Kingdom under the Assyrians in 721 BC. Jews of the Northern

Kingdom intermarried with Assyrians after the captivity and produced the half Jewish, half Gentile Samaritan people.

The Samaritans saw themselves as the keepers of the Torah and true descendants of Israel, from the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. They had their own unique copy of the Pentateuch, the first five books of Moses and believed they preserved the original Mosaic teachings! They had a unique religious system and established their primary worship site on Mount Gerizim. They considered the Jerusalem temple and the Levitical priesthood illegitimate. To put it plainly in Jesus' time the Jews despised the Samaritans and the Samaritans despised the Jews! 😊

So Jesus uses the example of a despised Samaritan as the one who actually helped this wounded Jewish man! Just take note of His compassion – instead of passing by the Samaritan loved him sacrificially. He practiced what we are taught in the New Testament:

Jesus –

Matthew 5:43-47 (NIV)

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **44** But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **46** If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? **47** And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

Paul –

Romans 12:17-21 (NIV)

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. **18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19** Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. **20** On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

John –

I John 4:19-21 (NIV)

19 We love because he first loved us. **20** If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. **21** And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Just look at his caring demonstrated.

1. He bandaged his wounds
2. He poured wine which contained alcohol to cleanse his wounds.
3. He poured oil which would sooth and ease the pain.
4. He set him on his own donkey which meant the Samaritan walked.
5. He paid the innkeeper two silver coins – denarii which amounted to like two days labor. This would provide for the man's needs for approximately two or three weeks. Then whatever extra expense would he also cover!

Wow! Talk about above and beyond!

D. THE LESSON AND INTENT OF THE PARABLE

Luke 10:36-37 (NIV)

36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” **37** The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

So take this to heart! The ones who should have been the neighbor who cared, passed by. The quote enemy of the victim the Samaritan actually had God’s love and compassion towards a person whom they were not normally associating with but as God intends for us to have compassion on the world around us!

Conclusion

So let’s take this to heart in our outreach to the world around us! Remember Jesus call to take the Gospel to all:

Acts 1:7-8 (NIV)

7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Philippians 2:14-16 (NIV)

14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, **15** so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe **16** as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.