

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-37



BIBLE VERSE
COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Luke 10:27

...love your neighbor as yourself.



December 4, 2011



STORY LESSON
BIBLE STORY

An expert in the law was trying to trap Jesus. In doing so he almost trapped himself, but then he tried to justify himself by turning the question on Jesus: "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29). In response to this man's question, Jesus told a parable. You can read the entire dialogue here:

²⁵ Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?"

²⁶ He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?"

²⁷ He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself."

²⁸ "Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live."

²⁹ Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?"

³⁰ Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. ³¹ Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him



he angled across to the other side. ³² Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

³³ "A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. ³⁴ He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. ³⁵ In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back."

Luke 10:25-35

Jesus then asked the expert in the law, "**Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?**" (Luke 10:36). The expert was trapped. He had to say that the Samaritan did, but he couldn't bring himself to even say the name. Instead he replied: "The one who had mercy on him" (Luke 10:37). And Jesus still doesn't let this one get away without instructing him to "**go and do likewise**" (Luke 10:37).

This parable highlights a crucial cultural understanding in the first century: Samaritans were despised by the Jews because they were only half-Jews (almost, but not quite). In addition, the Samaritans believed differently than the Jews did regarding theology. They accepted only the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures—the Torah or the Pentateuch. (This led to much theological snobbery and bickering.)





LIFE APPLICATION

MAKING IT REAL

GO and DO

The power of this parable comes in at the “go and do” part. We all have neighbors. Some we like, some we don’t. Some we talk about behind their back, and some we talk about badly to their faces. Will we go the extra mile, like this Samaritan, in taking care of our neighbors despite our prejudice? In God’s economy, everyone is our neighbor... how are you treating them?

Kingdom of God ETHIC

Jesus was highlighting specific characteristics of the kingdom of God—the kind of living God intends for REDEEMED humanity to live. Instead of bickering about people we don’t like, or are afraid of, we need to be the kind of people who transcend “cliques” and “groups that exclude” and INCLUDE and take care of all kinds of people. That is what marks a Jesus-person.



QUESTIONS

REMEMBERING

- 1. Who was trying to trap Jesus?** An expert in the law
- 2. What did the expert in the law ask Jesus?** “What do I need to do to get eternal life?” And, “who is my neighbor?”
- 3. Who attacked the man traveling?** Robbers
- 4. Who was the first man who passed by the man who was attacked?** A Priest
- 5. Who was the second man who passed by the half-dead man?** A Levite
- 6. Who was the third man who DID NOT pass by, but rather helped the half-dead man?** A Samaritan
- 7. What were the final words of Jesus as he spoke them to the expert in the law? What did Jesus tell this expert to do?** GO and DO



COLORING SHEET

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