

Luke 10:25-37

Q1: ²⁵ A lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Q2: ²⁶ Jesus said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”

A2: ²⁷ The man answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and strength and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

A1: ²⁸ And Jesus said, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

Q3: ²⁹ But the man, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Q4: ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and left him; leaving him half dead.

³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.

³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

³⁴ He went to him and bound his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.

Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

³⁵ And the next day gave \$500 to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’

³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”

A4: ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.”

A3: And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

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The parable of the Good Samaritan is told in response to a question (“Who is my neighbor”). The purpose of the question was to understand the minimum acceptable behavior to win approval from God. However the parable itself sets an impossibly high standard of conduct. It follows that the message of the parable must be something more than an example of right living. If that is all it is, we are all doomed to failure.

Why is it important to the parable that the man is both stripped and unconscious (left for dead)? _____

The listener would expect the third traveler to be the turning point of the parable. Who is expected in the progression of: **Priest -> Levite -> _____**

How does Jesus illustrate his authority over the questioner?

The parable is not told from the point of view of the Samaritan (e.g. “Which one of you, if you were riding down the road, would not stop to help a man left for dead...”). Why is this important?

How is the hero of the story like Jesus?

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In his illustration of compassion, Jesus paints us into a corner in several ways. He does not allow us to limit his message by:

- Helping only those who _____
- Helping only those who _____
- Helping only when _____

We all fall short of the example of the Good Samaritan. How far short depends on whether our charitable acts are motivated by guilt/morality (“I am the Good Samaritan; I have so much, others so little. This is not right, and I feel bad about that) or the love of Christ (“Jesus is the Good Samaritan; he gave me everything when I had nothing. I would do anything for him and his children”).