

Luke 10:25-37

As we continue in this series, we now come to one of the most popular parables in all of God's Word. It is one of those stories that you learn in children's Sunday school, Vacation Bible Schools, and children's Bible Story Books. It is a parable that has even made its way into secular society in many ways. We likely know it as the parable of the good Samaritan. But what is the real point of this story?

1. Do unto others?
2. Do good to those who are hurting?
3. Be kind?

There is more to this story than meets the immediate eye.

I. Context of the Parable v25-29

*And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"*

1. This lawyer wanted a list of do's and don'ts to follow.
2. Jesus humors him and asks, "What does the Bible say?"

*26 And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" 27 And he answered, "YOU SHALL 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 YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."*

1. The lawyer clearly had a deep insight into the Scriptures when he could sum up the Law in this way.
2. He just summarized the whole law in 2 commands!
  - a. "This" is just a simple summarization of the 10 commandments
    1. The first 4 are about loving God: love God
    2. The last 6 are about loving others: love your neighbor
  - b. And since the 10 commandments are a summary of the whole law of God the lawyer just succinctly summarized the whole law in a couple of sentences!
3. Now notice what Jesus says to his answer.

*28 And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE."*

1. Do this!
  - a. Live your entire life loving God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength (keeping the entire law of God as it relates to loving God)
  - b. And love your neighbor like you love yourself (keep the whole law as it relates to loving others)
2. Do this, ...never for one moment fluctuating in your love, and you will be perfect and will therefore inherit eternal life.
3. James 2:10 *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

29 *But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

1. For most Jews a neighbor was another Jew, not a Samaritan or especially a Gentile.
2. He jumped over the loving God part. I'm okay with God and I'm okay with my neighbor unless, you have another definition of neighbor than I do...
3. Jesus at that point could have just dismissed him.
4. Instead, he's going to try one more time to show him his true position before God as a violator of God's Law and one who neither loves God or his neighbor.

He will do that through a parable.

## II. Content of the Parable v30-35

30 *Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.*

1. the term for "beat" here has the idea of repeated blows.
2. he was left half dead.

31 *And by chance a priest was going down on that road,*

Good news! Here comes a priest, a servant of God.

1. He knew the scriptures

a. Ex 23:4-5 *If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall bring it back to him. If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him.*

b. Mic 6:8 *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

2. He served others: offering sacrifices for people in the temple, lifting the people up before God.
3. Surely he is a godsend!

*and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.*

1. He did not just pass him by
2. Jesus uses a verb that literally implied that the priest went the opposite direction.

*32 Likewise a Levite also,*

1. Levites came from Levi, but not from Aaron so they were lower on the priestly totum pole.
2. They were assistants to the priests...there is a renewed sense of hope!

*when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.*

1. The audience would have expected a priest and a Levite to be followed by an Israelite layman.
2. But Jesus is about to throw a twist in the story that would give them all whiplash!

*33 But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him;*

1. We would assume that this man is not going to be any help at all because the Samaritans and the Jews despised each other.
2. And so here comes a Samaritan. Not only is he a stranger, but he's an enemy. There is little hope found here!

*and when he saw him, he felt compassion,*

1. Instead of going the other direction, when he saw him he felt compassion."
2. Now remember that this is a made up story. Jesus deliberately chose an outsider, and a hated one at that, for his hero.

*34 and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.'*

The Samaritan went the extra mile

1. He gave up his own drink and his own oil
2. He gave up his own clothing to bandage the wounds
3. He gave up his own transportation
4. He provide a room for him and took care of him.
5. He even provided continued lodging and care for the man and left an open account if he needed anything else.
6. He set his whole agenda aside.

Now that everyone is shocked out of their mind, Jesus ends his story.

III. Conclusion of the Parable v36-37

*36 Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?"*

So Jesus says to the lawyer, "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor?"

1. Immediately Jesus has turned the question on its head. He asked, "Who is my neighbor?"
2. Jesus turned it around. Instead of talking about who qualifies to be your neighbor, let's talk

about what a love that pleases God really looks like.

*36 Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" 37 And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."*

1. On the surface the story seems like a simple story about being kind and neighborly. It isn't.
2. The story is told to a self-righteous, pride filled, religious non-believer who thought he could be good enough to do what it takes to enter the kingdom
3. That's what it takes all the time to earn your way into God's Kingdom.
4. Whenever you see a stranger in need, somebody you don't know, better yet somebody who is your enemy you must,
  - a. minister to all his needs,
  - b. give him everything he needs,
  - c. put him to bed at your expense, fed him, stayed all night to make sure that he was recovering
  - d. And then paid for his care without qualification for as long as necessary?
5. Have you ever done that for anybody?
  - a. Have you loved strangers, even enemies this way at all times?
  - b. Luke 6:32-36 *you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.*
  - e. You must love not only your friends, but your enemies this way.

Now, have you always done that....your whole life?

1. I'll tell you, there's somebody you've done that for and it's you.
2. That's how we care for ourselves, isn't it? Give me whatever I need.
3. Do you really want to inherit eternal life?...Love your neighbor as yourself...for real!

*37b Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."*

1. What's that supposed to do? Produce what? Acts of kindness?
2. What this parable is meant to bring is conviction.
3. He's giving this lawyer one more opportunity to say, "Jesus, I don't love like that. I can't love like that.
4. I never will love like that. I'll never get in the Kingdom, if that's what's required...and we haven't even addressed the kind of love for God needed to get in to the Kingdom!

5. If this is what it requires for me to get to heaven, I'm not getting there.

You see, we have repeatedly broken these 2 commands: Love God and Love others. But Good News!

1. Someone came in your place and lived them perfectly!
  - a. Jesus loved God 100%
  - b. Jesus love others perfectly
  - c. And he can take his perfect record and apply it to your account
2. Not only that...but He took your failure to love God and neighbor and the guilt of these sins... and the punishment that we deserve upon Himself!
  - a. He paid for our sin and failure by going to the cross and shedding His blood
  - b. His blood can wash away your sin debt...your guilt before God.
3. You can do what this lawyer dod and go try to do better
4. Or you can make a trade.
  - a. You give Jesus your sin and failure
  - b. For His perfect righteousness
  - c. How? Repent and believe today.