

Theme: We will never inherit eternal life by keeping the law. But the blessing of eternal life is made evident in our obedience to the law of love.

Background: Turning point in the gospel.

- Luke 4 - 9:50 Galilean ministry - miracles/compassion
- Luke 9:51-19:44 Road to Jerusalem - teaching and parables
- Rising opposition against Jesus

Introduction: *Christian life from the balcony – or in the street??*

I. The *Right* Question (25-28)

A. The “Expert” questions Jesus

1. Context? (v.21)
2. An excellent question
 - No better, more important one to ask
3. Mixed motives?
 - a. “Put him to the test”
 - b. A preconceived idea

B. Jesus asks the “Expert”

1. Let him answer first
 - a. “What is written?”
 - b. The Great Commandment
 - Answers with the “Shema” (Deuteronomy 6:5)
 - And the Law (Leviticus 19:18)
2. Trapped in his answer
 - a. “Do this, and you will live.”
 - b. No one can do it. (Galatians 3:10)

NOTE: Now the law is doing its work! It shows us the need for atonement.

II. The *Wrong* Question (29-35)

- ### A. Who is my neighbor?
- Looking for the escape clause! (Leviticus 19:18; 19:34-35)
 - The heart of the matter

II. The Wrong Question (cont.)

B. A memorable (and compelling) response!

1. A “man” on the road
2. The “righteous” pass by!
 - Can you list the excuses??
3. The *Samaritan*??
 - a. The Ancient Enemy

NOTE: Jesus is challenging everything in which this man is trusting!!

- b. A real neighbor!
 - true compassion
 - indiscriminate care (Jew or Samaritan?)
 - personal involvement
 - meets every need
 - provides till he returns

NOTE: Jesus describes himself in His work and ministry through this parable.

III. A New Perspective

- A. Who is the neighbor?
 - Not “Who is *my* neighbor?”
 - But “Who is *the* neighbor?”
- B. Reluctant understanding
 - Real acceptance??

IV. Doing “Likewise

- A. The constraint
 - Salvation, eternal life cannot be earned.
 - Loving God, and loving neighbor is not a matter of the law, but of the heart!!

NOTE: We must first see ourselves as the man left in the road, completely helpless on our own. Otherwise we may trust in those “good works” as the way of salvation.

- Eternal life is only in Christ.

- B. The inconvenience (Alternate Title: *Love’s Inconvenience*)
 - Living on His timetable
 - How good are your excuses?
- C. The command
 - “You go, and do likewise.”
 - Are you down in the street, or sitting in the balcony?