

# THE GOOD SAMARITAN

“Teacher, **what must I do to inherit eternal life?**”

‘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**”

(Luke 10:25-27)



“But he [the expert in the law] **wanted to justify himself**, so he asked Jesus, “**And WHO is my neighbor?**” (Luke 10:29).

The Jewish expert in the law knew that he did not love his brothers who now, for many years were cut off from the covenant family. He also knew the teachings of Jesus as Matthew wrote, “These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “**Do not go onto the road of the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans, but GO RATHER TO THE LOST SHEEP OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.** As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near’” (Matthew 10:5-7).

The work to preach the gospel to the whole world was first offered to the Jews, but they rejected Jesus. “When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying. Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: ‘We had to speak the word of God to you first. **Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.** For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’ **When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord, and**

all who were appointed for eternal life believed” (Acts 13:45-48). The baton was passed to the lost sheep of Israel and in humility and with great honor, they took the task of taking the gospel to all the world.

The religious leaders of the Jews had long lost their focus. Their self-glorifying aspirations were driving them into darkness. They had become selfish and did not want to accept the redemption of their brothers—the 10 tribes of Israel. God, our Father in heaven is merciful and has an enduring love for all of the tribes in the house of Jacob. Christ was sent to reclaim these lost people and re-graft them back into the family. The covenant family no longer consists only of the house of Judah, but it now includes the once cut-off house of Israel. The 10 tribes of Israel have been redeemed.

After Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul played a major role in teaching the Gentiles—the lost sheep of Israel, the ten tribes. He was successful and they listened. While on trial, the Apostle Paul confidently assured Agrippa that **all 12 tribes have his same hope—of the resurrection. ALL 12 TRIBES have been redeemed and those who believe will be saved.** “It is because of my hope in what God has promised our fathers that I am on trial today. **This is the promise our 12 tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night.** O king, it is because of this hope that the Jews are accusing me” (Acts 26:6-8).

Paul’s hope extended beyond the 12 tribes of Israel, but to people of every nation. “Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘Do you think that **in such a short time you can persuade me to be Christian?**’ Paul replied, ‘Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am” (Acts 26:28-29).

Paul confirmed that **ALL 12 TRIBES who believe are serving God day and night.** They believe the teachings of Jesus and they became known as Christians. They are no longer called Gentiles or the lost sheep of Israel. God has blessed them with a new name. The 10-tribed house of Israel has repented and accepted Christ as their Savior. Mercy from God was extended to them, **now they await mercy from their brothers.**

Such is the story of the Good Samaritan.

Inheriting eternal life is dependent on loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and **loving our neighbour.** “And who is my neighbor?” the expert in the law asked Jesus (Luke 10:29).

Jesus replied with his story knowing that the Jews opposed and despised him. The Apostle John recorded, “The Jews answered him, ‘Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?’” (John 8:48)

Jesus responded, “I am not possessed by a demon, but I honor my Father and you dishonor me” (John 8:49). Jesus did not correct the Jews when they identified him as a Samaritan, while it was common knowledge that he was born a Jew. The reason he did not correct them was because

he felt that he was a Samaritan for he was treated like one: hated, cut-off from his family—the house of Judah and dishonored.

The Jewish expert in the law knew that his love for his neighbor was limited to a small circle. The laws the Jews added gave them the legal right to avoid the Gentiles. Jesus told his story. “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 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. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the inn-keeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have’” (Luke 10:30-35).

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” Jesus asked.

“The expert in the law replied, ‘**The one who had mercy on him.**’”

Jesus said, “**Go and do likewise**” (Luke 10:37).

This story is often told. The meaning is clear. Gotquestions.org provides a solid wrap up. “The lessons of the Parable of the Good Samaritan are three-fold: (1) we are to set aside our prejudice and show love and compassion for others. (2) Our neighbor is anyone we encounter; we are all creatures of the creator and we are to love all of mankind as Jesus has taught. (3) Keeping the law in its entirety with the intent to save ourselves is an impossible task; we need a savior, and this is Jesus.” <https://www.gotquestions.org/parable-Good-Samaritan.html>

An intriguing point in the story of the good Samaritan was the response of the expert in the law who correctly identified that loving your neighbor as yourself is showing **mercy**. The story is reminiscent of Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind and tender-hearted to one another, **forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.**” The use of the word “mercy” implies forgiveness; it goes beyond kindness and compassion.

A glistening thread woven into the story of the good Samaritan is the conflict between two houses: Judah and Israel. One house guarded and preserved the law of God, while the other house disregarded it—nearly completely. The house that kept the law of God grew proud and self-righteous, while the house that disregarded it was cursed and they suffered, until they fell to their knees and cried out in despair. That house resembles the man who fell in the hands of robbers for God was no longer watching over them. The robbers are the enemies of all of mankind—the rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities of Ephesians 6:12.

**The man was stripped.** Clothes in God's coded language image behavior. "It was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure" — for **the fine linen is the righteous deeds** of the saints" (Revelation 19:8). The members of the Laodicea church are naked and do not know it. "But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness" (Revelation 3:17-18). The story reveals a people without good deeds. The house of Israel when they were cut off from God those many years ago, forgot the ways of God and lived in wickedness; they were stripped of righteous deeds.

**The man was robbed.** Whatever truth and knowledge of God the house of Israel had from ancient times, it was taken from them through false worship and pagan practices. They were dying spiritually—quickly. "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

Truth, wisdom and understanding are the valuables of God-fearing, God-serving people. "The price of wisdom is beyond rubies... it cannot be bought with pure gold. Where then does wisdom come from? ...God understands the way to it and He alone knows where it dwells... he looked at **wisdom** and appraised it; He confirmed it and tested it. And he said to man, '**THE FEAR OF THE LORD—THAT IS WISDOM, AND TO SHUN EVIL IS UNDERSTANDING**'" (Job 28:18b, 20a, 23, 28).

**The man was beaten.** The evil heavenly powers, rulers and authorities in the heavens and in the dark places on earth (Ephesians 6:12) work towards both the physical and spiritual destruction of God's people and all of mankind. God's people should know better, but they keep wandering away. "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.' **But they said, 'We will not walk in it'**" (Jeremiah 6:16).

**He was left half dead.** The people of the 10-tribes fell into such despair that they were unconscious, dying spiritually. They managed to exasperate the Almighty God with their perpetual sinning. "I will no longer love them; **all their leaders are rebellious.** Ephraim [the 10-tribes] is blighted, their root is withered, **they yield no fruit.** Even if they bear children, I will slay their cherished offspring. My God will reject them because **they have not obeyed Him; and they shall be wanderers among the nations**" (Hosea 9:15b-17).

Who would be willing to help a people like that?

Both the priest and the Levite when they saw the man, they passed by on the other side. These law specialists knew that those who disobey God will be cursed. In their minds, the man on the roadside received his just reward. Likely, they didn't hear the man's mumbling whisper or see his bloody tears or feel his desperate grip.

One man heard, saw and felt and with everything he had, he gave to revive this dying soul.

The 10-tribed house of Israel wandered far and away from their God and lived in sin, but their dark day came when they were stripped, robbed, beaten and left to die. Barely conscious, they cried out to their God and He heard them. He sent His Son, His only beloved Son to bring this prodigal house back into the covenant family. Jesus Christ is the image of the good Samaritan. He gave his life to save a dying people and all of mankind. He revived a dying people and with eternal gratitude, they have accepted his sacrifice.

A time will come, still in the future, when the house of Judah will come to recognize the one they pierced and they will mourn (Zechariah 12:10-11). The God-fearing and God-serving people in the house of Israel will comfort them, as they were comforted in their time of despair. Then, the house of Judah will remember their brothers and their brothers will remember who they are.

“Ephraim's jealousy will vanish, and Judah's enemies will be destroyed; **Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim**” (Isaiah 11:13).

The two houses will unite and TOGETHER they will return to worship the Almighty God—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. “In those days, at that time, the **people of Israel** and the **people of Judah TOGETHER** will go in tears to seek the Yahuah, their God. They will ask the way of Zion and turn their faces toward it. They will come and bind themselves to the Lord in an **everlasting covenant** that will not be forgotten” (Jeremiah 50:4-5).

Our enduring Creator “will forgive their wickedness, and never again remember their sins” (Hebrews 8:12, Jeremiah 31:34).

“Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and **passes over the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance**—who does not retain His anger forever, because **He delights in loving devotion?** You will **AGAIN** have **compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot** and **hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. You will show loyalty to Jacob** and **loving devotion to Abraham**, as You swore to our fathers from days of old” (Micah 7:18-20).

The story of the good Samaritan began with a question.

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

The answer:

1. **Love God** with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.
2. **Love all people from all nations** and be ready in their time of despair, to help revive them as Christ did for us.

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich.*