

A LESSON EVERY PRIEST MUST LEARN

Actions speak louder than words.

Lesson 5

INTRODUCTION: We are super excited that you have joined us for the 5th bible study in our Priests in Blue Jeans series. In this study you are going to look at a classic story Jesus shared with a religious man that illustrates a spiritual principle every Priest in Blue Jeans must learn, that actions speak louder than words.

- **Prayer:** Invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate God's truth to your spirit.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Can any of you think of a time in your life when you were down on your luck and someone stepped into your world and helped you get back on your feet?

Bible Study & Questions:

- **Read Luke 10:25-37** and answer the questions below.

1. What do you think are some possible reasons why these religious men would have gone out of their way to avoid the wounded man?
2. Have you ever had an opportunity to meet someone's need in your life and yet, you stepped around the need? If so, do tell!!! Why did you do so? How did you feel afterwards?
3. Can you think of some ways people are beat up in our society today?
4. What do you think motivated the Samaritan to get involved in the man's troubles?

5. What do you think the typical unchurched person believes about Christians and why?
6. Do you think the Samaritan man was any less busy than the two hypocrites?
7. In what ways did the Samaritan man sacrifice to help this hurting man out?
(Two Denarii was equivalent of two days wages at this time).
8. If the man who was beat up decided to attend church (modern context) which of the three men's church would he be most likely to attend?

READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES OUTLOUD AND LET THEM SINK IN TO YOUR SPIRIT

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. **James 2:14-17** (ESV)

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. **Matthew 5:14-16** (ESV)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. **Eph.2:10** (ESV)

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (ESV)

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. **James 1:27** (ESV)

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. **Hebrews 13:16** (ESV)

Thoughts worth consider as you close out this study:

1. Most people you come across in the streets have already had some sort of encounter with religious people, good or bad. Therefore, you will either reinforce or negate what people believe about our faith, based upon how we treat them.
2. Your spiritual credibility is directly related to how you treat people in need.
3. It's what you do, not what you say that creates opportunities for impact.

"People don't care what we know until they know that we care."

ACTION ITEMS:

- Set aside a few dollars each week as a fund that will enable you to be benevolent when people with needs cross your path.
- Next week share a testimony with the group how you were able to apply tonight's lesson in your life.

CLOSE IN PRAY: Ask your Father to make you sensitive to people in need and the faith to bless them with some of what God has blessed you with.

BIBLE STUDY NOTES FOR THOSE WHO WANT MORE DEPTH

There are four people in the story, the Lawyer, the Levite, the Samaritan man and the man who was beat and left for dead. The lawyer was the Scribe at the time, a religious expert in the laws of Moses (Theologian). The Priest would have been a man of religious pedigree; a descendant from the tribe of Levi (the only tribe permitted to work in the temple). The Samaritan's ethnicity made him suspect to the Jewish elite. Samaritans were considered "half breeds," half Gentile and half Jew. The wounded man was anonymous. We don't know anything about him other than that he was robbed and beat up. What we do know is that Jesus told this story as an illustration to answer to the lawyer's question, who is my neighbor?

Jericho is a 17 mile journey east from Jerusalem. The road that connected the two cities was known to be a very dangerous road to travel on. Bandits would hide themselves in the many cliffs and canyons in the region, and wait for an ambush and rob an unsuspecting victim.

The story hints that the lawyer & priests were returning home from a trip to the temple where they would gone to worship. What a sad picture of religion without relationship.