

# **The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)**

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**25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”**

**26 He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?”**

**27 So he answered and said, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”**

**28 And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”**

**29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”**

**30 Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup> So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’<sup>36</sup> So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”**

**37 And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.”**

**Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”**

# The Point of the Parable

- Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings.
  - Jesus preached in parables to separate those who earnestly desire truth from those who do not (**Matt. 13:12-15**).
- This parable pictures:
  - A person in need who is:
    - Ignored by a Levite and priest (people who were supposed to be righteous).
    - Shown compassion and mercy by a Samaritan (someone unexpected to do so).
- Jesus was asked by a lawyer in what he needed to do to inherit eternal life (**v.25**), prompting the Lord to offer this parable.
  - The lawyer was proficient with the Law (**v.27**), but asked, **“Who is my neighbor?”** (**v.29**).
    - This question was not from a place of sincerity (**v.29**).
  - Most Jews would not have included people such as the Samaritans in the category of **“neighbor.”** Therefore, Jesus provided this parable to illustrate how He requires us to love all people and show all people mercy.

# “Do This and You Will Live”

- Jesus’s response to the lawyer’s summation of the Law (**Deut. 6:4-5; Lev. 19:18**) affirms that obedience is required for obtaining eternal life: “**Do this and you will live**” (**v.28**).
  - This was true under the Law of Moses (**Lev. 18:5; Ezek. 20:11; Neh. 9:29**).
  - This is still true under the Law of Christ (**Heb. 5:9; John 8:51; Rom. 6:16**).
- Specifically, love for God (**Gal. 5:6; John 14:15; 1 John 5:3**) and love for our neighbors (**John 13:34; 1 John 4:7, 16-21**) are necessary conditions we must meet in order to receive from salvation.

# “Who is My Neighbor?”

- “**By chance**” a priest saw the man half dead on the road (v.30-31).
  - God opens doors all the time for us to bring glory to Him (**Matt. 7:7-8; Col. 4:3; 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12; Acts 14:27**).
  - The priest and the Levite ignored the open door and neglected their neighbor (v.31-32), but the Samaritan helped his neighbor (v.33-35).
  - When we see our neighbor in need, we have a personal responsibility to aid them (**Prov. 21:13; James 2:14-17**).
    - We will be judged based on how well we have taken advantage of opportunities to help our neighbors (**Gal. 6:10; Matt. 25:31-46**).
- The lawyer asked, “**Who is my neighbor?**” (v.29).
  - Anyone – regardless of race, sex, etc. – who is in need and we can help is our neighbor.
    - We are to love our neighbor as ourself (**Rom. 13:8-10; Matt. 7:12**).
    - We owe our neighbors love and mercy, regardless of how they treat us (**Matt. 5:7, 38-48; Rom. 12:9-21**).

# “Go and Do Likewise”

- The Samaritan not only did what was necessary to help the needy man, he was willing to do even more (**v.35; see also Matt. 10:5-8; Acts 20:35; John 13:12-17**).
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan is not just an academic discussion; Jesus commands followers of Him to be like the Samaritan: “**Go and do likewise**” (**v.37**). **Are we?**
  - It is one thing to know we should show love, mercy, and compassion to our neighbor, but it is a different thing entirely to actually imitate the Samaritan (**Micah 6:8; James 2:16, 1:22-25**).
  - The word “**go**” is also used in the Great Commission (**Mark. 16:15-16**), showing how we ought to be **actively searching** for opportunities to teach others the gospel.
    - Doing good (**Gal. 6:10**) can include:
      - Speaking to the truth to those who need to hear it (**Gal. 4:16**).
      - Restoring the erring (**Gal. 6:1**).
      - Bearing others’ burdens (**v.34-35; Gal. 6:2**).
  - Are we **actively searching** for opportunities to do good to our neighbor?