

Parable of the Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37

Elements of the Parables

- 1) A Man
- 2) Robbers
- 3) A Levite
- 4) A Priest
- 5) A Samaritan

v. 25

Jesus Put to the Test

- Here we see that a lawyer has approached Jesus publicly and asked Him a question regarding inheriting eternal life.
- It was a common occurrence for Jesus to be put to the test publicly.
- The Jews, more specifically the Pharisees, continually sought to get Him to slip up in one of His answers.
- They always asked Him the trickiest of questions.
- Usually these questions involved details about the old testament law.
- This would have been especially tricky because not everyone was an expert in the law.
- This man was because he was a lawyer.

The Lawyer

- The man in this parable is a lawyer.
- When we think of lawyers nowadays we think of people who defend people in the court of law.
- Sometimes we think of them as being shady and untrustworthy.

- This man was slightly different.
- He was an expert in the old covenant law.
- He would have been trained in the law and therefore his occupation would be centered on events that coincided with what the Mosaic law said.
- They would have been very pietistic and legalistic.

The question he asked was, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

v. 26-28

Jesus Responds with Dialogue

- Jesus uses the Socratic Method of answering the man’s question with another question.
- He asks him what is written in the law and how he understands it.
- This would have put the ball back into the lawyer’s court.
- This type of dialogue would have forced the man to disclose all of the details of his argument before the crowd of people.
- This would have kept transparency in the argument therefore eliminating the prospect of Jesus’ words being twisted and manipulated.
- It also would’ve allowed the people to hear for themselves what Jesus had to say regarding the matter.

The Lawyer Responds

- He clearly and accurately articulates what the Mosaic law has to say about the greatest commandment.
- Matthew 22:37-40
- Jesus tells us that the entire law is predicated on these two commandments.
- The people here for themselves what the greatest commandment is.

- At this point he knows that his options are dwindling but he has one more trick up his sleeve. More on this later.

Jesus Responds

- Jesus maintains consistency and tells the lawyer that he has answered correctly.
- What we see Jesus say next is very interesting.
- Jesus tells the man to obey this and he will have eternal life.

Contradiction?

- This is a passage in which some will claim that the Bible contradicts itself.
- We are clearly taught in many passages that salvation is by grace alone through faith in Christ alone.
- Here Jesus says something that is seemingly contrary to that teaching.
- Let's reason through this.
 - 1) Does Jesus know all things?
 - Yes.
 - 2) From whom did the law come from?
 - Jesus.
 - 3) What was the purpose of the law?
 - To reveal the sinfulness and inadequacy of mankind.

Romans 3:19-20

- We are told that the law cannot save people from their sin.
- So what is it good for then?
- It shows very clearly that every human being is so destitute in the eyes of God that they need to look for another source of propitiation.

- The lawyer would have known that quite well.
- He would have been so well-versed in the law that he knew he was unable to keep the whole thing.
- That's Jesus' point.
- While he tells the man that if he follows the law then he will have eternal life.
- The problem, and Jesus knew this, is that the man *cannot* do this.

v. 29

The Lawyer Seeks Justification

- The lawyer seeks to justify himself with his line of questioning by asking Jesus who his neighbor is.
- As a lawyer he would be looking for any type of loophole that he could exploit to get Jesus off balance.
- He asks for a simple definition of terms hoping that Jesus would mess up and be trapped in an unlawful argument.
- Defining terms is a good thing during debate.
- This was not an odd request.

v. 30-35

The Good Samaritan

- Jesus responds to the lawyer's question with a story.
- He tells them of a Jewish man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho.
- The Jericho of the old testament is not the same as the Jericho of the new testament.
- This Jericho was a city that was built around an oasis in the desert and was on a frequently traveled road from Judea to Galilee.

Jews and Samaritans

- Samaritans were those who were part Jewish and therefore not included with the full Jewish people.
- The Jews referred to them as “dogs” and other derogatory things.
- The Jews had their temple in Jerusalem and the Samaritans had their temple in Gerizim.
- They kept them quarantined from the full Jews because they didn’t want to be defiled by them.
- The region of Samaria separated the regions of Judea and Galilee.
- Jews could have simply taken the quicker route through Samaria but they didn’t want to associate with the Samaritans so they intentionally took the longer route and that would take them through Jericho.
- Along this route were robbers waiting on vulnerable travelers.

A Man is Attacked

- On one particular day, a Jewish man was traveling to Jericho when he was ambushed by robbers.
- It says that they stripped him, beat him, and left him for dead.
- So, let’s get this picture.
- A man is found walking along the road alone.
- A group of robbers find him an easy target and they attack him.
- It says they strip him.
- This would mean that they would have taken everything he had, including his clothes, and left him naked in the road.
- He’s lying there naked, bleeding, unconscious, and everything he had with him is taken.

A Priest and Levite Walk By

- Here we see that a priest and a Levite walk by.
- They see the man and do nothing to help him.
- What would have been going through their minds to justify not stopping and helping him?
- According to the old law there are strict rules regarding being defiled by touching a corpse.
- Based on the man's condition they were likely thinking that he was already dead and instead of defiling themselves they decided to let the body lay there.
- The picture I get is of two well-dressed men approaching at two different times.
- They would have been so concerned about their ritual cleanliness that they would have given the man a wide berth.
- Note the imagery that Jesus uses here.
- What type of man is asking the questions?
- A lawyer. A religious man.

A Samaritan Passes By

- Next we see that Jesus uses an unexpected figure in the story.
- A Samaritan is passing through the same road when he comes upon the man.
- Unlike the two before him, he felt compassion for the man.
- Instead of giving lip service to his compassion he actually took action.
- It says that he stooped down and tended to the man's wounds.
- He then picked the man up and placed it on his animal and carried him into town.

- This is interesting because this means that the Samaritan would have had to walk the rest of the way.
- He gave his seat up for the man to lay on until they got to town.

The Samaritan Cares for the Man

- Once they arrive into town we see that the Samaritan doesn't simply drop him off at the gate.
- He doesn't take him to the hospital, pat himself on the back, and continue on with his journey.
- We see something very personal take place.
- He takes the man to an inn where he pays for his stay but also offers up more money so that the man will have food, medicine, etc. in order that he may recover.
- He then promises the innkeeper that whatever the two denarii don't cover he will pay back when he passes back through town.
- He took responsibility for the care of the man that he found on the road.

v. 36-37

Who is the Real Neighbor?

- Once Jesus wraps up the story He asks the lawyer to identify which of the three men in the story proved to be a neighbor.
- Obviously the Samaritan is the neighborly figure here.
- He is the one who showed the man mercy.
- Jesus instructs the lawyer to go and do likewise.
- We see a masterful display of Jesus explaining the law to someone who was trying to trap him,

- Jesus could have called down angels to kill this man but in His mercy we see Him teach the lawyer.
- When the lawyer asked the question, “Who is my neighbor”, what sort of response do you think he was expecting?
- He was likely expecting Jesus to say that it was His Jewish brothers.
- That’s what the religious crowd would have said back then.
- Their neighbor would have been a Jew; a righteous Jew at that.

Who is Our Neighbor?

- We as God’s people are called to love.
- That doesn’t mean that we are to affirm people in their sin.
- When we come upon someone who has fallen into the gutter of sin and ruin we are not to ask them how they got there.
- It doesn’t matter how they got there.
- What matters is that we can help them out of the gutter by pointing them to the One Who can get them out.
- Christ uses us for that end.
- Some in the modern religious left will say that we are all God’s children.
- This is not so.
- It is very clear that we are God’s creation and that He has one begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
- We are made sons and daughters of God via adoption in Christ.
- The good news is that this adoption is available to all on the human spectrum.
- This idea would have shocked and shaken the very foundation of the Jews who were in attendance.

- While our brothers and sisters are only those who are in Christ, our neighbor is everyone we come into contact with.
- We are to do good to all people regardless of ethnicity, language spoken, etc.

Acts 10

- Here we see the account of Peter receiving from God the vision of the sheet.
- Peter sees all manner of animals on the sheet and he hears God tell him to kill them and eat them.
- The problem is that these animals were unclean.
- Peter objects and God responds by telling him not to call unclean what God has called clean.
- We see this and praise the Lord for allowing us to eat bacon, ham, lobster, etc.
- The greatest praise to the Lord should be that in Christ He has called even the Gentiles clean!
- Peter then goes to see Cornelius and his whole household believes on Christ!
- The mystery of the Gospel is that God has called all people unto Himself.
- When someone comes to Him in faith He will clean them up.
- In this way, Jesus is the Good Samaritan.