

## Parable of The Good Samaritan

Text : **Luke 10: 25-37**

### INTRODUCTION :

- A. This parable was given in response to a Lawyer with evil motives ... to test Him.
- B. Jesus did not respond with the same confrontational attitude.
  - 1. Jesus referred the questioner to the word of God.
  - 2. The questioner was a teacher of the law so he was familiar with the text.
  - 3. “How does it read to you?” is the way another lawyer would have responded.
    - a. The lawyers would have considered this a wise or at least a prudent answer.
    - b. It was an invitation to a dialog, not to a confrontation. ( showed respect to questioner )
- C. Remember : Jesus knew the heart of the questioner,
  - 1. Jesus commended that which was correct.
  - 2. Jesus taught the man ... as apposed to just answering his question.
  - 3. The parable was crafted to correct the man’s error without engendering conflict.
    - a. The parable directly contradicted the teaching of the Jewish rabbis.
    - b. The message was so clear and obviously true, it could not be refuted.

### TRANSITION :

**READ the text ... Luke 10: 25-37**

### I. The setting was familiar to all of the hearers. ( We must study it to understand. )

- A. The road between Jericho and Jerusalem was notorious for being dangerous.
  - 1. It was referred to as “Adummin” which means “The Pass of Blood.” **Josh. 15:7**
  - 2. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century people had to pay passage money to local Sheiks.
  - 3. In 1930 a British traveler wrote of being warned when he paid the Sheik his passage money, “Make sure you arrive before dark. I cannot guarantee safety after dark.
- B. The terrain was perfect for robbers.
  - 1. There was an abundance of cover from which to surprise their prey.
    - a. Very rocky
    - b. Steep mountains ( excellent place for escape )

2. The elevation of the road fell 3,000 in a little less than 15 to 20 miles.
  - a. Jerusalem was 2300 ft. above sea level. ( *Jerusalem – vision of peace* )
  - b. Jericho was 1300 below sea level. ( **Near the Dead Sea** ) ( *Jericho – cursed city* )

### C. Why go there ?

1. Jericho was a beautiful place with thousands of palm trees.
2. 12, 000 priest lived there when not working in the Temple.
3. This was the route of their commute.
4. When going to Jerusalem, many Galileans went via Jericho to avoid Samaria. **C**

### D. The scene portrayed in the parable was familiar to all.

1. In good times, it was a dangerous place.
2. Josephus records that during the time of Christ, Herod laid off 40, 000 workers upon the completion of work on the temple.
3. Many of these unemployed workers became bandits along that road.

## II. The characters :

### A. The traveler :

1. Must have been a foolhardy individual because he traveled alone. ( **no caravan** )
2. The man was most likely a Jew, maybe even a priest or Levite.
  - a. Going “down” meant away from Jerusalem.
  - b. He left God in the Temple.

### B. The priest :

1. He was going away from his service in the Temple. ( **down = away from Jerusalem** )
2. Would not allow himself to be defiled by the wounded man.

**Num. 19: 11-** The one who touches the corpse of any person shall be unclean for seven days.

3. He put ceremony above charity. ( **He had the wrong priorities.** )
  - a. The law required mercy, even to animals.

**Exodus. 23: 4-** If you meet your enemy’s ox or his donkey wandering away, you shall surely return it to him. **5-** If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying *helpless* under its load, you shall refrain from leaving it to him, you shall surely release *it* with him.

- b. The priest was a servant of the law, but he put doctrine above love.

**C. The Levite :**

1. Probably of the same tribe as the questioner and the priest, but lower order.
2. Levites were servants in the Temple and of the altar.
3. They took care of the logistics that made the worship possible.
  - a. Cleaning
  - b. Caring for the animals
  - c. Providing wood for the altar
4. The Levite is equal to a deacon in the church.
  - a. If anyone should have helped the injured man, it should have been the deacon.
  - b. He is a man devoted to service.
  - c. **Acts 4: 36** ... Barnabas was a Levite.
5. He would not take a risk.
  - a. Sometimes injured men are used as bait to get travelers to stop.
  - b. He put his own welfare above that of the injured traveler.

**D. The Samaritan :**

1. Samaritans were looked down upon by the Jews.
  - a. Mixed breed Jews with the people imported into the land.
  - b. To call someone a Samaritan was a term of derision.

**John 8: 48- The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"**

**\* Thus, it is possible that Jesus was referring to an "unfaithful" Jew, not an ethnic Samaritan.**
2. The Samaritans also had animosity toward the Jews.
  - a. **Luke 9: 51-53** ... The village would not receive Jesus.
  - b. **John 4: 9** ... The Samaritan woman was surprised that Jesus spoke to her.
3. He was a frequent traveler along that road.
  - a. Innkeeper knew him
  - b. Spoke of his return
4. His credit was good. ( **"I'll pay you later."** )
5. He was a man that put the other person above himself. ( **Not selfish** )

### III. The teaching of the parable is simple.

#### A. Remember the question revolves around how to please God.

1. Verse 25
2. The correct answer was to love God and to love one's neighbor. Verse 27
3. The parable was for the purpose of answering the question, "Who is my neighbor."

#### B. The Jews defined "neighbor" much the same way as we do today.

1. They did not include any non-Jews in their definition of neighbor.
2. The leaders did not include anyone outside their party as a neighbor.
3. Likewise today, some define neighbor as those who are in our fellowship.

#### C. Jesus simply teaches that one practices love as the opportunity arises.

1. It is not relative to distance.
2. It is not relative to ethnicity.
3. It is only relative to opportunity and to need.

#### D. Love is an attitude, a commitment, a condition of heart.

1. Jesus says that we are to react to others the way God reacts to us.
2. We must be willing to give as we would like to receive regardless of the recipient.
3. Love is a positive action ... not a response.

#### E. Love is the foundation of the Christian religion. Without it we do not exist.

1. Tit. 3: 14- Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.
2. Our works are limited only by opportunity, not doctrine, ethnicity, etc.  
Gal. 6: 10- So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.
3. Love is a very practical concept. It is something we do !!
  - a. Read ... I John 3: 13-20
  - b. Summarize ... James 2: 14f

### CONCLUSION :

#### A. This is what we must do to please God ... Love Him and our fellow man.

#### B. When we get so hung up on doctrine that we major in minors,

Luke 11: 42- But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithes of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

#### C. In the end, Judgment is of the heart, which controls actions, not of the doctrine.