



Loving Your Neighbor As You Live

LUKE 10:25-37

The Great Commandment (Luke 10:25-28)

- ▶ The Expert in the Law: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” (v. 25)
 - ▶ This question surfaced on several occasions (Matt. 19:16-22; Luke 18:18-23; John 3:1-15).
 - ▶ A special kind of lawyer

The Great Commandment (Luke 10:25-28)

- ▶ We know that this question was not sincere.
 - ▶ The expert was testing Jesus.
 - ▶ He may have hoped that Jesus would do badly, so that he could show him up.
 - ▶ After Jesus answered the question, the expert wished to justify himself.

The Great Commandment (Luke 10:25-28)

- ▶ His question also reveals that he was thinking of some form of salvation by works (no idea of divine grace).
- ▶ According to Christian teaching, eternal life is a gift of God.

The Great Commandment (Luke 10:25-28)

- ▶ Jesus' Answer (v. 26)
 - ▶ He answers a question with questions.
 - ▶ Not the answer we would expect:
 - ▶ No Roman Road
 - ▶ No 4 Spiritual Laws
 - ▶ No Evangelism Explosion

The Great Commandment (Luke 10:25-28)

- ▶ “What is written in the Law?”

The Great Commandment (Luke 10:25-28)

- ▶ The Expert in the Law (v. 27)
 - ▶ He knew his Old Testament well, especially the Torah.

The Great Commandment (Luke 10:25-28)

- ▶ He quoted the Great Commandment.
 - ▶ Love God with all of your being (Deut. 6:5).
 - ▶ Love your neighbor (Lev. 19:18).
 - ▶ A neighbor is a person who lives nearby. The term has the idea of community or fellowship.

The Great Commandment (Luke 10:25-28)

- ▶ Jesus' Reply (v. 28)

- ▶ “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

- ▶ Again—an answer we do not expect.

- ▶ Apparently, Jesus knew that this man was not ready to receive the plan of salvation.

“Who is my neighbor?” (v. 29)

- ▶ The expert should have asked:
 - ▶ How can I do this? I am not able.
 - ▶ I need help.
- ▶ Instead he tried to take the focus off himself by asking the second question.

“Who is my neighbor?” (v. 29)

- ▶ So Jesus used the opportunity to teach about something else.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ *Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, . . .”*
- ▶ Distance: Jerusalem > Jericho: 17 miles

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

▶ Elevation

- ▶ Jerusalem: 2800 ft. above sea level
- ▶ Jericho: 500 ft. below sea level
- ▶ 3,300 ft. descent

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ Terrain
 - ▶ Steep and rocky

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ *“ . . . and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.”*
- ▶ This situation would resonate with the listeners.
- ▶ Many places for thieves and robbers to await victims

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ *“Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side” (v. 31)*
 - ▶ Did the priest fear ambush?
 - ▶ Did he want to avoid making himself unclean?

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ But the story is about giving help to the living man.
- ▶ The possibility of him being dead is not raised.
- ▶ The issue is the heartlessness of the priest and his failure to show love.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ *“So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side”* (v. 32).
- ▶ Levites were inferior to the priests, but still were a privileged group in Jewish society.
- ▶ Also heartless with no love for the man who was hurt.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ *“But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion” (v. 33).*
- ▶ The Samaritans were scorned by the Jews because of their mixed Jewish and Gentile ancestry.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ The Samaritan might have been deterred from touching a possibly dead man. He, too, would have known Moses' Law.
- ▶ But whatever his feelings, the point of the story is that he showed compassion (7:13) and did something to help the man.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ *“He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him”* (v. 34).
 - ▶ Wine would have been used for cleansing the wounds.
 - ▶ Oil would have eased the pain.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ The wounded man was too weak to walk, so the Samaritan set him on his own beast.
 - ▶ This meant that he himself had to walk.
- ▶ The Samaritan brought the wounded man to the inn.
- ▶ He continued to look after him.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ *“And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back’” (v. 35).*
- ▶ The Samaritan provided further care for the injured man.
 - ▶ Two denarii would have provided 24 days of care.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ He promised to return and pay more, if necessary.
- ▶ He did more than the minimum.
 - ▶ He saw a man in need and did all that he could.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ *“Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”* (v. 36)
- ▶ Jesus did not answer the lawyer’s question, but asked him the crucial question (a no-brainer to answer).

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ The lawyer had asked, “Who is my neighbor?”
- ▶ Jesus asked, “To whom am I to be a neighbor?”
- ▶ One cannot define one’s neighbor; one can only be a neighbor.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (vv. 30-37)

- ▶ The lawyer was an expert in the Law.
- ▶ He would have to wrestle with two issues:
 - ▶ Did the priest and the Levite, who tried to retain moral purity required by the Law, really keep the Law, which also commanded love for neighbor?
 - ▶ Are racial considerations irrelevant?

Take-Aways

- ▶ As we do evangelism, we need the Spirit's direction to say what is appropriate in each circumstance.
 - ▶ Eternal life is a gift of God received by faith in Jesus Christ.
 - ▶ People are often not ready to receive the good news (e.g. this lawyer).
 - ▶ Sometimes it is better to prepare someone to hear the gospel, rather than proclaim the gospel itself.

Take-Aways



- ▶ Our neighbor is anyone whom the Lord puts in our path—especially if that person is in need.
- ▶ It is our obligation to show love to such people—showing compassion for them at our expense, if necessary.

Take-Aways

- ▶ Such love should go beyond ethnic and cultural differences.
- ▶ We should not allow our legalistic traditions which promote a works-oriented standard of moral purity to hinder us from showing compassion to others.
 - ▶ Sometimes it may be necessary for us to “get our hands dirty.”