

Luke 10:29-37 (ESV): The Good Samaritan

Main point: Care for and love everyone, even those not like you.

Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.

Background: Jesus loved telling stories! And in this one, he's answering a Jewish lawyer who is trying to "put him to the test," to see if he's really that great of a teacher like everyone says.

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

Focus of the study:

²⁹ But [the lawyer], desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Questions:

1. *What is the lawyer's question?*
 - a. v. 29: "Who is my neighbor?" Let's look more closely at Jesus' reply, in the form of a story.
2. A man is going from Jerusalem to Jericho. [If possible, show a map.] In Jesus' day, this road was known for being an extremely dangerous road, even called "The Way of Blood" because it was so infested with robbers.
3. *If this man on the road is coming from Jerusalem, what is likely to be true about him?*
 - a. most likely Jewish
4. *What happens to him?*
 - a. v. 30: robbers! beat him up, strip him and take everything, and leave him "half dead"

- i. *What does someone look like if they've been beaten up and are half dead?* probably pretty awful, naked, bloody, gross
- 5. *Who comes along first and second, and what do they do?*
 - a. v. 31: A Jewish priest, who "sees him" (doesn't miss him) and intentionally crosses to the other side (thus avoiding even checking to see if he's dead or alive)
 - b. v. 32: A Levite, also a member of the Jewish priestly class, who does exactly the same
- 6. *What would you think a priest's or Levite's duty would be? Think about your pastor or priest – what would you think they should or would do if they saw you lying bloody on the sidewalk?*
 - a. help someone! care for them! especially a fellow Jew
 - b. *Why do you think they avoid him?*
 - i. The beat-up man is ritually unclean – bloody and possibly dead. It would defile the priest or Levite, would go against their ritual law, to touch him.
 - ii. *So how highly do the priest and Levite value their religious laws?*
 - iii. *How highly do they value human life?*
- 7. *Then who comes along? A Samaritan*
 - a. You may or may not know this, but Samaritans were people of mixed race: Jewish and Assyrian; considered "half breeds," not "real" Jews and even worse, defiled by mixed blood. The Jews and Samaritans *despised* each other and would have *nothing to do* with each other.
 - b. *But what does this Samaritan do?*
 - i. v. 33: sees the beat-up man and has compassion
 - ii. v. 34: *goes* to him (rather than crossing to the other side), binds his wounds, puts him on his own donkey, takes him to an inn and takes care of him
 - iii. v. 35: next day, gives the innkeeper money (a denarii is typically one day's wage, so this is *two days' wages*) to keep taking care of him
 - c. *What kind of response is this?*
 - i. compassionate; costly to himself; ignoring cultural and historical hatred for this person; going out of his way (extremely and in numerous ways) to help someone who is typically seen as his enemy
- 8. *What is Jesus' question at this point?*
 - a. v. 35: "Which of these three, do you think, *proved* to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"
 - i. *What does it mean to prove something?* Evidence! Not just talk, but action.
- 9. *How does the lawyer rightly respond? And Jesus?*
 - a. v. 37: "the one who showed him mercy."
 - b. Jesus: "You go and do likewise."
- 10. *So how would we answer the lawyer's question, "who is my neighbor?" who is our neighbor?* People who are like us, agree with us culturally or politically? People who live

near us? People of the same race or religion? People whom it would be convenient and easy to help?

- a. No – anyone and everyone, in every situation: enemies and friends, convenient or not convenient, strangers or loved ones, great or small needs.
 - b. *Who could you be a neighbor to today?*
11. Ask for any prayer requests for today.
 12. Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
 13. End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace