

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

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The challenge to Jesus

Jesus is in the midst of His preaching and teaching.

A lawyer tested Him (**Luke 10:25**).

A lawyer would be one who was an expert in the law, possibly a scribe. He would be one who knew what the Law (of Moses) said, and likely was willing and able to discuss/debate it with others.

The challenge to Jesus

Jesus has him answer his own question.

The lawyer answers correctly – “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.” (**Luke 10:27**)

From **Deut. 6:5 & Leviticus 19:18**.

Jesus would later emphasize this(**Matt. 22:37-40**).

Jesus acknowledges his answer as correct and calls for application.

The challenge to Jesus

The lawyer, wanting to justify himself, asks Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:29

Jesus answers his question with a parable.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-37

The journey (Luke 10:30)

A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho.

This man – likely a Jew because:

- 1) The lawyer was a Jew
- 2) He was quoting Old Law

The journey (Luke 10:30)

From Jerusalem to Jericho –
Jerusalem was ~2500 feet above sea level &
Jericho ~800 feet below. Elevation drop was thus
~3200 feet.

The road was about 14 miles long.

It was mountainous wilderness with canyons and
dangerous.

He fell among thieves (Luke 10:30)

This was a dangerous road. Some called this road, “The way of blood” because of its danger.

They robbed him of everything and left him half dead.

The priest and the Levite (Luke 10:31-32)

It was fairly common for priests and Levites to travel this road.

Some lived in Jericho, since it was about a day's journey.

Jesus traveled this road often from Galilee to Jerusalem.

The priest and the Levite (Luke 10:31-32)

A priest would have been a Jewish religious leader, whose job included interceding for the people, teaching them the truth, and helping them spiritually.

He should have understood the troubles of people and been compassionate.

The priest and the Levite (Luke 10:31-32)

A Levite, while not necessarily a priest, worked with the priests, the temple and had various spiritual duties.

He too should have understood the troubles of people and been compassionate.

Concerning both, REMEMBER the greatest commandments!

The priest and the Levite (Luke 10:31-32)

Instead of stopping and rendering mercy and help, the priest completely avoided the hurt man.

The Levite, stopped and looked but then moved on also.

The Samaritan (Luke 10:33-35)

Samaritans were despised by the Jews and viewed as half-breeds.

They were a race that was a result of the Assyrian captivity of (Northern) Israel (ca. 722 BC).

Assyria displaced captives.

When Israel was carried away, other nations came to their land. They intermarried and the Samaritan race was the result.

The hostile feelings were somewhat mutual.

The Samaritan (Luke 10:33-35)

The Samaritan stopped and rendered aid, doing everything he could to help the injured man.

He had compassion. The Samaritan did not see an enemy Jew, rather a human being with a need.

He treated and bandaged his wounds, put him on his own animal to take him to an inn.

He paid for the inn (2 days wages) and even offered to pay more if necessary.

The Samaritan (Luke 10:33-35)

Consider what he sacrificed:

His time

His abilities

His resources

The Samaritan (Luke 10:33-35)

- 1. The good Samaritan was willing to get involved. He acted on a need.**
- 2. The good Samaritan ignored racism.**
- 3. The good Samaritan showed mercy.**
- 4. The good Samaritan risked his own safety.**
- 5. The good Samaritan was generous. Generosity reflects God's love.**

The application (Luke 10:36-37)

Jesus asked the lawyer, who was the real neighbor here?

The lawyer rightly knew the answer – the Samaritan who showed mercy.

Jesus replied, “Go and do likewise”

Application for us

How is this parable related to the kingdom of heaven?

The lawyer was asking about what he needed to do to inherit eternal life: To be saved!

Since salvation is in His kingdom, Jesus helped him find the answer.

It is about loving God and your neighbor.

Application for us

Who is my neighbor?

As a Christian, we MUST understand our neighbor is ANYONE we have opportunity to help. Consider “Love your neighbor”.

Matt. 22:36-40

36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

37 And He said to him, “ ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ ”

38 “This is the great and foremost commandment.

39 “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ ”

40 “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

Application for us

How much concern do we show:

For brethren?

James 2:14-17

14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

Application for us

How much concern do we show:

For brethren?

1 John 3:10-11

10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness **is not of God**, nor the one who does not love his brother.

11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should **love one another**;

Application for us

How much concern do we show:

For the lost?

2 Corinthians 5:10-11

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

Application for us

How much concern do we show:

For the lost?

How? By example

Matthew 5:16

16 “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

1. Christians are to show genuine care & compassion for others. Jesus showed great compassion to all men.

2. This can open doors to teach the lost.

Application for us

How much concern do we show:

For the lost?

Our love MUST be sincere!

Romans 13:10

10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of *the* law.

Romans 15:2

2 Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

Application for us

How much concern do we show: Our enemies?

Matthew 5:43-45

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

44 “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

Application for us

How much concern do we show: Our enemies?

Rom. 12:19-21

19 Never take your own **revenge**, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of *God*, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.

20 “BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.”

21 Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

God is the Judge.

Application for us

How much concern do we show: Our enemies?

Pray for them, as well as for our leaders.

1 Tim. 2:1-4

1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Application for us

This Parable is about the golden rule

Matthew 7:12

12 “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

The good Samaritan is a great example of applying this principle.

Application for us

Be careful before judging who is worthy of your help!

The Samaritan simply acted! He saw a need and responded!

Do we make judgments as to whom we help? Are our motives pure or tainted?

Galatians 6:10

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.

Application for us

1. The parable of the good Samaritan is a good reminder to us about our need to be Christians at all times and before everyone.
2. If we practice this fully, we will be given opportunities to share, not only the love of our Lord, but His message as well.
3. How do you view your neighbors?