

Lesson 1: The Good Samaritan

Reference: **Please Read:** Luke 10:25-37

Theme: Jesus reveals what true religion is all about

Context: An Expert in the Law Asks Jesus what he must do to Inherit eternal life

Introduction:

Remember that Jesus came to the earth while the Old Covenant was in force. Therefore, a lot of what He said and did was in conformity to that dispensational period. However, Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Commandments and usher in a New Covenant of Grace, much more superior to the Old Covenant- **Matthew 5:17-18**.

Who is my Neighbor

- Not the first time Jesus was asked this question, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”
 - o **Matthew 10:17; Luke 18:18**
- Jesus answered them all the same way, as far as the Old Covenant- obey the Law

Leviticus 18:5

Keep my decrees and laws, for the man who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord.

Predictably, the religious leader wanted to show Jesus that He was a righteous man- self-righteous that is. He wanted to make a distinction of who his neighbor was; who would be worthy of his love.

- Jesus declared that we are to love everyone, even our enemies- **Mt. 5:44; Luke 6:27-36**
- The religious leaders were notorious for keeping the letter of the law- not the spirit
 - o **Matthew 12:3-8; 15:1-9; 23:1-39; Mark 7:1-13**.
- God’s requirement for salvation under the New Covenant is simplified- **Romans 10:9-10**
- We are to believe on Jesus and love one another; fulfills the law- **Jn 13:34-35; 1 Jn 3:23**

John 6:29, “Jesus answered, ‘The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.’”

- **John 13:34**, the law of the New Covenant is love; fulfills the law – **Romans 13:8-10**

Question: “So how would you answer the Pharisee in Luke 10:29, ‘Who is my neighbor?’”

The Religious Elite

Since the expert in the law was wanting to justify himself, Jesus provided a wonderful example of how one is to put their religion into practice- **1 Timothy 5:4; James 1:26-27.**

Luke 10:30, “In reply Jesus said: ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.’”

- The story begins with a man taking a journey on a road from Jerusalem to Jericho- alone
- This road was known for being full of danger/peril due to the high rocks, ravines & caves
- Back then they did not have much law/order, it was like the wild west in the wilderness
- A haven for gangs of robbers and bandits that would descend on innocent folks
- Remember the two men crucified with Jesus, they were thieves themselves
 - o **Matthew 27:38-44**

Now when Jesus said they left him half dead, this man was as good as dead out there in the middle of nowhere. Like Paul when he was stoned; death was their intention- **Acts 14:19-20.**

Luke 10:31-32,

A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But alas, the cavalry is coming, a priest, a man of the cloth, a man who exemplifies mercy and compassion has stumbled across this unfortunate traveler, hope for the hopeless has come!

- The Priests and Levites were consecrated unto God for religious service
- Unfortunately their definition embraced a wide separation from the common man
- To their defense, they probably thought this man was dead, so they did not want to risk it to find out and then become ceremonially unclean if the man was indeed dead
 - o **Numbers 5:1-4; 9:6-10; John 18:28**

There were provisions in the Mosaic Law for them to become ceremonially clean again, but that would have imposed delays and costs; in their mind, this was an unnecessary distraction.

- This is a classic example of the letter of the law being exalted above the spirit of the law
- Like ceremonial cleanliness another sacred cow was keeping the Sabbath to the extreme
- Jesus points out that human life is more important than following man’s traditions
 - o **Matthew 12:1-8, 11-12**

Question: “Can you think of an example in the past where you were a ‘Good Samaritan’?”

Authentic Compassion

- **Please Read: Luke 10:33-35**
- First of all it was not by chance that Jesus used a Samaritan as the “good guy”
- Samaritans were ethnically half Jewish and half Gentile- hated by the Jews- **John 4:9**
- A “True” Jew would go miles out of his way to travel around Samaria to get to Jerusalem
- They were not allowed to worship in Jerusalem, they were spurned as outcasts
 - o **Luke 17:16; John 4:19-26; 8:48.**

So this Samaritan man took pity on the half-dead traveler and was not hung up by religion to do something to help this man. He went out of his way to take care of him- until recovered.

- Without the compassion of this Samaritan, the man would have died for sure
- Jesus is giving us a mandate to lay aside our inhibitions & fears and reach out to people
- The greatest need that mankind has is the need for salvation!
 - o After that the physical/mental

Romans 12:16

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

One of the teachers of the law heard Jesus debating and asked Him which commandment was the most important- **Mark 12:28-31**. Jesus quoted Old Testament, and the man was impressed

Question: “People look for real, authentic love; as the Church of Jesus Christ are we giving it?”

- **Mark 12:32-34**- this teacher of the law understood the spirit of the law
 - o Devotion of the heart towards God and man
 - o Not just mechanical and superficial observance of religious rites
- Even as New Covenant believers we can become Christian in name only
 - o Having a form of godliness, going through the motions
 - **2 Timothy 3:5; James 2:14-26; 1 John 3:16-18.**
- Good deeds are a result of being Born Again- **Matthew 5:16; Titus 3:8, 14; 1 Peter 2:12**
- We are saved unto good works, not by good works- **Ephesians 2:10**
- **Prv. 21:3**, *“To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.”*

Luke 10:36-37, “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

- Jesus, was wanting more than just lip-service from His people- **Mark 7:6-8**
- Likewise for us under the New Cov. our faith is expressed by what we do- **James 2:14-26**