

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37



Opening Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart that I may hear your word, and understand and do your will, for I am a sojourner upon the Earth. Hide not your commandments from me, but open my eyes, that I may perceive the wonders of your Law...

On you do I set my hope, O my God, that you shall enlighten my mind and understanding with the light of your knowledge; not only to cherish those things which are written, but to do them;

For you are the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and from you comes every good deed and every gift. Amen.

Approaching the Parable

Luke 10:25

“(Just then) There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said,
“Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Context

Rejection / Acceptance

Luke 10:1

“After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go...”

Rejection / Acceptance

Luke 10:13, 15-16

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes... And as for you, Capernaum, ‘Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the netherworld.’ Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

A Scholar of the Law

A Lawyer...

an expert in the Mosaic law, and probably a member of the group elsewhere identified as the scribes

What's the motivation for the question?

Who is this guy?

What's he doing here with Jesus and the disciples?

The Parable

Luke 10:27

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

Cf. Dt 6:4-9 “Shema Israel, Adonai elohenu, Adonai echad...

Take to heart these words which I command you today...

The Parable

Luke 10:29

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

A Priest / Levite

Luke 10: 31-32

A Priest...

A Levite

Leaders in the community whom we might have some expectation of behaving as “neighbor”

What might the implications be for us?

Whom do we expect to be “neighbor”?

DANGER - CONVERSION
IN PROCESS!!

The Parable

Luke 10:33

But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.

The Parable

Luke 10:34

He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him.

The Parable

Luke 10:35

The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.'

The Parable

Luke 10:36

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"

The Parable

Luke 10:37

He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy."

Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

People always come first

A neighbor is anyone who is in need

“Go and do...” is not an option, but an obligation

Compassion is something we do - something we live

Our biases do not excuse our Christianity

“We need to draw from the infinite love of God, through an intense relationship with him in prayer, the strength to live day by day with concrete concern, like that of the Good Samaritan, for those suffering in body and spirit who ask for our help, whether or not we know them and however poor they may be.”

Pope Benedict XVI, February 11, 2013

Reflection Questions

Are there other scriptures that come to mind for you that might shed light on the narrative of this parable?

The identity of the 'neighbor' turns out to be a Samaritan, the enemy of the Jew. What are the implications for our relationship with God in how we identify/speak about/interact with the 'other' or the 'neighbor' in our own lives?

How we are before others **IS** how we are before God. Discuss in light of the parable.

The parable of the
Good Samaritan
challenges all
who would profess
to be Christian.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

