

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37 ²⁵And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? ²⁶He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readeest thou? ²⁷And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. ²⁸And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. ²⁹But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? ³⁰And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. ³³But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, ³⁴And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. ³⁶Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? ³⁷And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

- The lawyer who asked Jesus this question was part of the group who were the official theologians of their time. Their work was to relate the Law of Moses to the everyday life of the Jewish people. He attempts to stump Jesus with the question of all questions, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
- As was often His custom, Jesus answered his question with another question, basically, "What does the law say?" and "What does that mean to you?" The lawyer had the **RIGHT DOCTRINE**, but the **WRONG SPIRIT**. He knew the law said to love God and to love his neighbor, but he wanted to narrow the definition of neighbor down so that it would not challenge his lifestyle. The Jews only counted their fellow Jews as neighbors; to them, all Gentiles were dogs!
- Jesus gives us the moral of the parable when he tells us to do good to anyone in need. But He also packs the parable with Divine thoughts that convey several lessons, not merely one moral.

1. **A CERTAIN MAN WENT DOWN**

Geographically, one always went UP to Jerusalem and DOWN to Jericho, a distance of some 17 miles. Jerusalem was the place of blessing, while Jericho was a cursed city (Joshua 6:26). So, the traveler symbolizes any person walking away from the purpose of God for their life, just like Jonah went DOWN to Tarshish as he fled from the will and presence of God (Jonah 1).

2. **AND FELL AMONG THIEVES**

We are not certain from the context whether this means the man took up with bad companions who eventually turned on him, or whether he was simply robbed by strangers. Whether we intend to sin or just fall prey to temptation, sin is a robber that will eventually turn on us.

3. **WHICH STRIPPED HIM OF HIS RAIMENT**

Satan has always desired to strip mankind of the garments of salvation, righteousness and praise.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

4. **AND WOUNDED HIM**

Satan and his demonic thieves inflict great wounds on mankind by the treachery of violence, immorality and addictions.

Isaiah 1:6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

5. **AND DEPARTED, LEAVING HIM HALF DEAD**

Every person who has not had the experience of Biblical salvation is "half dead" because only the outer part of them (mind and body) is alive! Their spirit is dead, alienated from God because of sin. And unless they make a choice to change it, this is an eternal condition! Since the spirit is dead, the soul (mind) is now in charge. Led by their intellect, emotions and will, such a person cannot understand spiritual concepts, for they are foreign to them. Their body becomes merely a tool for acting out their lusts and passions.

Ephesians 2:1-3 ¹And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ²Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

1 Timothy 5:6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

6. **THERE CAME A CERTAIN PRIEST**

The priests represented the moral law of God (the Ten Commandments, etc.). That's why the priest didn't even stop to look at the man – the Old Testament law had no mercy!

Hebrews 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

7. AND LIKEWISE A LEVITE

The levites represented the ceremonial law of God (the Temple sacrifices, etc.). The levite at least stopped to look at the man, but he too passed by. The sacrifices only covered sin – they could not deal with the root cause of sin!

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Hebrews 7:19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

8. BUT A CERTAIN SAMARITAN

The Samaritans were regarded as outcasts by the Jews. They had no dealings with them (John 4:9), because they were regarded as a half-breed, mongrel nation. For Jesus to bring in a “Samaritan” at this point in his parable is a remarkable touch of satire, to drive home His point! Even when the religious leaders wanted to insult Jesus, this is how they referred to Him. THE GOOD SAMARITAN IS A TYPE OF JESUS, NOT JUST A TYPE OF THE CHURCH!

John 8:48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

9. HAD COMPASSION ON HIM

The Samaritan did not pass the man by, but came to where he was and found him in his helpless state. The Bible tells us that Jesus is moved with compassion.

Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

10. AND BOUND UP HIS WOUNDS, POURING IN OIL AND WINE

Where Satan and sin have inflicted great wounds on individual lives, Jesus wants to heal people spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. The Samaritan bound up the man’s wounds and bruises (internal wounds!), pouring in oil and wine. These are types of the Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

11. AND SET HIM ON HIS OWN BEAST

Because the wounded man was too weak to walk on his own, the good Samaritan let him ride on his beast of burden. The beast speaks of being upheld by the strength of another. When we come to the Lord, we are able to depend on His power, not our own!

Galatians 2:20-21 ²⁰I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

12. AND BROUGHT HIM TO AN INN, AND TOOK CARE OF HIM

If the good Samaritan is Jesus, and the wounded man is the world, then the inn must be the church! The inn is a place of healing, health, shelter, safety and security, where those who have fallen among Satan’s thieves can be cared for. When Jesus brings people to us, He leaves us responsible for them!

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.

Acts 2:47b And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

13. WHEN HE DEPARTED, HE TOOK OUT TWO PENCE

Two pence in Jesus’ day was two days’ wages. So, the Samaritan left the innkeeper with enough resources to care for the wounded man for at least two days. Jesus had to go away for 2000 years, but He left us with the spiritual resources to care for wounded humanity!

2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

14. TAKE CARE OF HIM

The Lord has placed in His church various ministries who are to care for those He brings in who are wounded by the robbers of the world. The lives of these people are not always a pretty sight, and it takes a lot of care to restore them to full health and strength. But, that is our commission!

2 Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

Jude 22-23 ²²And of some have compassion, making a difference: ²³And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

15. AND WHATSOEVER THOU SPENDEST MORE

Sometimes when we consider the great personal cost of ministering to others, it can seem a bit overwhelming. But, whatever it costs, the wounded of this world must be cared for! Besides, the Good Samaritan has promised that He will repay us for everything we spend.

Mark 10:29-30 ²⁹And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, ³⁰But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

16. WHEN I COME AGAIN, I WILL REPAY THEE

The Good Samaritan promised that He will return and reward us for our labor!

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.