Parable of the Good Samaritan

November, 28 A.D.

Luke 10:25-37
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Text:

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And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? How readest thou? And 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. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And 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. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and 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. And 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. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, he that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Commentary:

Luke 10:25, And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?
1. A “certain” lawyer stood up...

   A. and made trial of him. His question was not sincere but hypocritical and for evil purposes.

   B. and asked, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

1. Eternal life cannot be earned.

2. However, inheriting eternal life requires us to comply earnestly with the will of God.

Luke 10:26, He said unto him, What is written in the law? How readest thou?

I. Jesus answered the lawyer (one supposedly well versed in the law of Moses) with a question:

   A. “What is written in the law? How readest thou?” That is, to receive eternal life.

   1. This shows clearly that the way to eternal life is plainly revealed in the scriptures, the Bible.

   2. Every person has the responsibility to read the scriptures to find the way to eternal life.

   3. The scriptures, when understood, give the same answer to all who read them.

   B. “Why do you ask me?” You are a lawyer. You ought to know the answer to your question. What does the law say?
Luke 10:27-28, And 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. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

I. The lawyer knew the answer to his own question and gave the right response.

   A. This shows the lawyer was not sincere, but was trying to ensnare Jesus.

   B. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ...
      
      1. all thy heart.

      2. all thy soul

      3. all thy strength

      4. all thy mind.

   C. Thou shalt love your neighbor as yourself.

II. Jesus answered, “You have answered correctly. Do what you said and you will have eternal life.”

III. Scriptures:

   A. Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
B. Matthew 19:16-22, And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honor thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things I have kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

C. No one can perfectly keep the will of God. That’s where grace enters the picture.

Luke 10:29, But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

I. Jesus had turned the tables on the lawyer.

A. The lawyer, trying to justify himself, tried a feeble way out of his predicament by asking a diversionary question; viz.,

B. “...who is my neighbour?”

C. The subject had changed from, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” to “...Who is my neighbour?”

II. To answer this question Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan.
Luke 10:30-35, And 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. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And 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. And 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.

I. Facts of the parable:

A. A “certain” man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho.

B. This man encountered robbers as he went on his journey.

1. These robbers stripped him of his clothes, beat him, and left him half dead caring absolutely nothing for the man they had robbed.

C. By chance a “certain” priest was going along that same road.

1. The priest saw the man who had been robbed, but passed by on the other side of the road.

2. A Levite came along and did as the priest had done; that is, passed by on the other side of the road.

3. These “holy men” would have been thought to be the first in line to help those in need, but this was not the case.
D. However, “a certain” hated, despised Samaritan happened upon the scene.

1. The Samaritan, not the priest nor the Levite, had compassion on this unfortunate robbery victim.

2. The Samaritan bound up his wounds pouring oil and wine on them for healing and relief from some of the discomfort.

3. By the way, didn’t this Samaritan know the robbery victim might have some contagious disease that he might contract? He helped him anyway.

4. Didn’t the Samaritan know the robbers could be hiding in the bushes waiting to attack him also?

5. The Samaritan placed the injured man on his beast, brought him to an inn (not a hospital) and personally took care of him.

6. Wasn’t this man on a tight schedule? How could he take time out of his busy schedule to help this total stranger?

7. The next day he gave the inn keeper money from his own funds for his further care and stood surety for any additional expense the inn keeper might incur.

8. This Samaritan was indeed a wonderful friend to the robbery victim and a man of superb character in regard to compassion and unselfish generosity.
E. All three of these men were evidently religious.

1. Was Jesus, the ultimate “Good Samaritan,” more like the Priest, Levite, or this Samaritan man who saw a person in need and supplied that need?

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

3. Good Samaritan hospitals all over the world have been built and staffed by people who have through the ages been moved by this parable.

F. Who is my neighbor? Any person in need whom I can help is my neighbor.

The Man by the Side of the Road

In the long, long, ago, a traveler came
   Down the road to Jericho.
He fell among robbers, who stripped him, and left him
   Dying from many a blow.
   A priest passed by on the other side;
       He had no time to spare;
   A Levite glanced at the wounded man,
       But left him lying there.

A human being, beaten and robbed,
   And left by the road to die!
And others content to have it so,
   And willing to pass him by!
But, lo! Another traveler came,
   A man of hated race;
He came to the victim’s side, and grief
And pity were in his face.

He bathed and bound the bleeding wounds
  Of the man by the side of the road;
  And on his beast of burden
  Placed a different load.
And then to the inn there slowly moved
  That tiny caravan;
That wounded man and the little beast
  And the Good Samaritan.
His time and his strength and his money too,
  The Good Samaritan gave,
That he might from a cruel death that day
  His needy neighbor save.
And my prayer is that I may be like
  The man who mercy showed
In the long ago on the Bloody Way
  To the man by the side of the road.

James H. Childress

Luke 10:36, 37, Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, he that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

I. Jesus then asked the lawyer, “Which of these three, thinkest thou, proved neighbor to him that fell among the robbers?”

II. The lawyer would not, could not bring himself to say, “The Samaritan was neighbor to him that fell among the robbers.”

A. The self-righteous bigoted lawyer answered, “He that showed mercy on him that fell among the robbers.”
III. Jesus told the lawyer and us, “Go and do thou likewise.”

   A. What kind of neighbor are you?

   B. The question is not, “Who is a neighbor to me?”

   C. The question is, “To whom am I a neighbor?”
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Questions

1. Why is this Samaritan called “Good?”

2. Who called this Samaritan “Good?”

3. Does the Bible or Jesus call him “Good?”

4. What does Jesus call him?

5. A certain lawyer tempted Jesus by asking him a question. What was his question?

6. What was Jesus’ answer?
7. How did the lawyer respond? ________________________________________________

8. Jesus said, “You have answered _______________.  This do, and you shall _______________.

9. Jesus had turned the tables on the lawyer and he found himself on the defensive. Trying to justify himself he asked, “Who is my _______________?”

10. Who is our neighbor? _________________________________________________

11. A certain man was going down from __________________ to ________________.  The thieves __________________ him, __________________ him of his ______________ and ______________ leaving him ________________ _________________.

12. By ______________ a certain ______________ came along and ______________ by on the other side of the road.

13. How many things have happened to you “by chance?” Give examples. ________________________________________________
14. A Levite came and ________________ at him, then ________________ by on the other ________________ of the ________________.

15. Would you have expected these “religious people” to have eagerly helped this man who was in dire need? ________________

16. A despised ________________ helped this man in his need who evidently was a Jew. What all did he do for this man? ________________

17. Would the Jewish lawyer have helped the man who had fallen into the hand of thieves if the unjust man head been a Samaritan?

18. What was the relationship between Jews and Samaritans? ________________
19. How did they feel toward each other?

20. What comparable situations exist today?

21. The one who was neighbor to him that fell among the thieves was the one who ___________________ ___________________ ___________________

22. Jesus told the lawyer (and us), “_________________ , and do thou _____________."

23. The question, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” does not mean that ___________________ ___________________ ___________________ ___________________ ___________________ .

24. Which is more important, loving God or loving our neighbor? ______

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________
25. Can we go to heaven while loving God but while disdaining our neighbor?