

Who is My Neighbor?

Luke 10:25-37 (screen verses 30-37)

And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" And he answered, "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." And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.' Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

A teacher of the Law was asking Jesus to define what the limits are when defining who a neighbor is. He was disturbed by the lack of definition found in the Law. The teacher wanted to validate his own opinion. Jesus uses this powerful parable to give His response.

1. The Traveler

2. The Priest and Levite

The expectation would be that these would be the good guys.

They avoided the man and the Law.

Leviticus 19 :15- 18, Proverbs 14:21, Deuteronomy 22:1-4, Numbers 19:11

3. The Innkeeper.

He only did what he was paid to do.

4. The Samaritan

The Jews expected no help from the Samaritan.

The Samaritan had compassion for the traveler.

John 4:9, Proverbs 19:17

5. The call to action.

I am called on to be the neighbor first!

I am called on to be compassionate like Jesus.

Matthew 9:36, 15:32, 20:34

I am called on to show mercy like Jesus.

Matthew 9:27, Mark 5:19, 10:47