

Adult Sunday School Lesson
Nassau Bay Baptist Church
March 7, 2021

Read Luke 10:25-37

Today we see what is most often called the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus entered the parable from a back and forth with a scribe/lawyer who was asking Jesus questions.

Lawyer: Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Jesus: What is written in the Law? What is your reading of it?

Lawyer: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus: You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.

Lawyer: And who is my neighbor?

Jesus: (Parable) So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?

Lawyer: He who showed mercy on him.

Jesus: Go and do likewise.

The Conversation

The lawyer asked a question, answered a question, asked a question, and answered a question.

Jesus asked a question, gave a command, asked a question, and gave a command.

The Significance of Jesus' Approach

By only asking questions, Jesus demonstrated that the lawyer already knew the answers to his own questions. The insertion of the parable seems to have been for the purpose of stretching the lawyer's answers, bringing him to admit that our responsibilities to others extend beyond race or creed, etc.

Let's Summarize

The lawyer's initial concern was to know how to inherit eternal life. Jesus walked the lawyer through the following answer:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength, and love your neighbor, who is anyone with whom you come into contact, as yourself. Go, do this, and you shall live.

Justify Yourself

The lawyer was like most of us. He liked talking more than he liked doing. Normally, he could win at talking. And he did have a firm grasp on the Law. His answers were correct according to Jesus.

Yet, Jesus twice told him to go and to do, once to love and again to be a neighbor and to show mercy.

This hearkens back to the prophets of old.

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly, to love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8

For I desire mercy and not sacrifice,
and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
Hosea 6:6

God has ever called for mercy, for love, for kindness, for righteousness, for the knowledge of God. All of these go together. We cannot truly find one without the others.

But the lawyer sought to justify himself. He was not doing what he knew to do, so he wanted to put Jesus in a box with what he thought was an impossible question. Who is my neighbor?

Neighbor

The lawyer's question implied that the world consisted of neighbors and non-neighbors. This was understood at the time in various ways: Jews vs. Non-Jews; Righteous vs. Non-Righteous; Orthodox s. Heterodox; Nearby vs. Not Nearby; etc.

One dividing line that was culturally strong in Jesus' day was the line between Jews and Samaritans, or the remnant of the Northern Kingdom vs the returnees of the Southern Kingdom. Jesus chose that line to frame his definition of one's neighbor.

A Certain Man

In vs. 30, "a certain man" was a Jew, traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho, along a very dangerous and lonely road. He was attacked, robbed, and left to die.

Priest

By chance, a priest came by and passed by on the other side of the road. Why he passed does not matter. Nothing gives cover to failing to help another person in a time of need.

Levite

A Levite, from an order of temple officials responsible for the liturgy and the safety of the temple, passed by after he stopped to look closely at the man.

Both priests and Levites were privileged and respected groups in Jewish society. Both failed to live out what they represented and what they taught.

Samaritan

Then a Samaritan, a member of a group hated by the Jews, bandaged the Jew's wounds, medicated them with wine and oil, took him to an inn, and "took care of him."

Adult SS Lesson, P. 3

NBBC

March 7, 2021

The next day, he paid the innkeeper two days' wages, which would pay for about 24 days of room and board at the inn, and promised to make up any difference if the man required more care.

The Big Question

"Which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"

The one who focused not upon himself and the effect and cost of helping another man in need, but abandoned all concern for his own welfare on behalf of another.

This is love.

*In this the love of God was manifested toward us,
that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world,
that we might live through Him.
In this is love, not that we loved God,
but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
1 John 4:9-11*

Love: Giving of myself, even unto death, for the holiness and righteousness of another.

A man's health is a first step on the road to righteousness and holiness. Dead men have no further opportunity to be or to become either.

To his credit, the lawyer got Jesus' point, accepted it, and admitted it.

Go and Do Likewise

Jesus' second command to "do this" ended the discussion.

"Go and do" always ends the discussion. See Matthew 28:18-20. "Go and do."