

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-37

Last Week

We said parables were...

- commonly used by Jewish rabbis for teaching purposes (40 by Jesus)
- stories told to illustrate one specific point
- used by Jesus to reveal spiritual truths to believers
- used by Jesus to hide spiritual truths from calloused unbelievers
- focused around the elementary truths of God's kingdom, entering God's kingdom, and final judgment

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

1. Most people are somewhat familiar with the story of the Good Samaritan. Hospitals, charities, and even moving companies have been named after this parable. There are even certain laws on the books known as "The Good Samaritan Laws."

2. What do you think the main point of this illustration is to most people?

3. What is Jesus' main point with the parable of the Good Samaritan?

Looking at the Context

1. Luke 10:21 – "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure" (NIV).

2. Luke 10:25 – What is ironic about an expert in the law asking the question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" As you look at his question, what is the expert in the law already assuming about himself?

3. Luke 10:26 – Why did Jesus point him to the law? Why didn't Jesus just tell him to believe in him for the forgiveness of sins?

Looking at the Context Continued (Luke 10:25-37)

4. Agree or disagree: If you're good enough, you'll live forever.

5. Luke 10:29 – The expert in the law was embarrassed that Jesus made his first question so simple. Perhaps he thought Jesus would point to something other than the law for salvation. In this he could trap Jesus.

The man regrouped. He wants to save face, and so he asks the question that gets to the heart of the matter. He asks Jesus, "Who's my neighbor?" What are some things we can learn about this man by his question?

Jesus' Answer: Looking at the Parable of the Good Samaritan

1. Luke 10:31-33 – The priest and the Levite (a temple assistant) both deny help to this half dead man. The Samaritan is the one who stops and lends a hand. What reaction might there have been in the crowd when the people heard this?

2. Luke 10:36 – Jesus points out that the question is not, "Who is my neighbor?" The question is; "How can I be a good neighbor to everyone, even my enemies?" (This, however, is not the main point of the parable.)

3. Luke 10:34-35 – You fulfill the law by being a good neighbor all the time, never once messing up. To be a good neighbor you can't just do the bare minimum. You must go the extra mile for everyone, especially your enemies. That is what the law expects of all people. If you don't, you die.

4. Luke 10:37b – "Go and do likewise." What's Jesus pointing out to that man with those words? In other words, what's the main point of the parable?

5. Is it okay to bring out other applications from this parable?