

The Parables

“Who Is My Neighbor”

Luke 10:25-37

Invite the children to sit at the tables to color or stay with their parents: their choice.

- What is my name? / who am I? / why am I your friend?
- Rules of Children’s Church
 - Sit Up Straight
 - Keeps your Bodies to Yourselves
 - Raise Your Hands to Ask Questions

Pray

Read Full Text of Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” 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 he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

As I prepared for today...

- I wanted to know the where and when details to this exchange
 - Place and time
 - Who was there
 - Sometimes we have to be OK that we don’t why
 - “Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. (John 21:25)”

Title for today: **Who Is My Neighbor?**

- A well-known story, both inside and outside of Christian community
 - Inside the Church
 - Show of Hands – Typical Response
 - Outside the Church
 - **Good Samaritan Hospitals** – Affiliated with Denominations / For Profit Org
 - Good Samaritan laws – 13 states have laws that include the name
 - Good Sam Camping organization – For Profit Org – Not Affiliated with Church
 - Camping World & NASCAR (7 hour Sunday event filled w/left turns)

One of the problems with such familiarity with any Biblical parable or event is our complacency.

- We think about it the way we always have
- Try to identify ourselves as one of the persons in the story
- The Word reveals new insights when we invest to learn and grow

Unpack

V 25 – ‘And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”’

- Interpreter and teacher of the Mosaic law. Very knowledgeable of the 10 commandments
- Jesus knows He’s been engaged in another episode of the highly rated reality show **“Stump The Savior”**, currently playing in reruns throughout the gospels.
- Jesus remains the undefeated champion and is ready to play!

V 26 – ‘He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”’

- Jesus asks two questions
 - The first is to establish a foundation for the truth of scripture
 - Any good lesson has a foundation
 - I believe the second is to provide him the opportunity to be transparent

V27 - 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.”

- The Lawyer recites Deut 6:5, adding Leviticus 19:18.
- The lawyer chooses to only answer the first question

V28 - And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

- Jesus responds with a paraphrase of Lev 18:5
“if a person does them, he shall live by them”
- Jesus calls on the action “do this”, not something embraced by religious leaders of the day
 - Matthew 23:1-3
Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.”
- I believe the Spirit of God convicted the lawyer regarding him reciting Lev 19:18
 - You shall not reap your field right up to its edge or gather gleanings (v9)
 - And you shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather fallen grapes (v10)
 - You shall not steal, you shall not deal falsely, you shall not lie to one another (v11)
 - You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of God (v12)
 - You shall not oppress or rob your neighbor (v13)
 - You will not withhold wages from hired workers (v13)
 - You shall do no injustice in court or show partiality due to finances (v15)
 - You shall not go around and slander among your people (v16)
 - You shall not hate your brother (v17)

V29 - But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

- It’s time for Stump the Savior, “The Bonus Round”
- Justifying himself leads to the parable – The Long Answer
- Seeking the truth provides the direct response (Matthew 19:16-22 – rich young ruler).

Preface – I'm not going to spend a lot of time on the parable itself.

V30 - Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead."

- The event in this parable is something the people could identify with.
- 13 miles out of Jerusalem and 5 miles from Jericho is a pass, and its name in Arabic means "Ascent of Blood", and in Hebrew it is called "Ascent of Adummim" (meaning red things, describing the terrain/geography). A place known for the violence against travelers.
- An 18 mile walk, descending from approx. 2,500 feet above sea level to 825 feet below sea level
- An average, non-descript man could walk it in 3-5 hours
- (examples: Foothills Mall / Tucson Airport / Corona De Tucson)
- Have you ever heard a story about a place you've been and thought "that could have been me"?

V31,32 - Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

- [A Priest (Holy Man of God) & Levite (One who serves in the temple): Both respected members of society have failed to render aid.]
- Do they fear being jumped themselves? Do they fear being rendered unclean?
The text gives us no reason.
- What is clear is they put as much space as possible between themselves and the one who needed aid without any major deviation to where they were going.

V33 - But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

- Samaritans and Jews hated one another
- Divided by racial and ethnic barriers dating back at least 550 years, back to Joseph and his brothers. (Homework)

V34,35 - He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'

- Quick Show of hands thought "He dropped him off and get out of there" (v35 "The Next Day")
 - Personal investment of his time
- Set him up on his animal, pouring on oil and wine
 - Sacrifice of his personal comfort or possible future income
- How much is 2 Denarii? (If he worked a 6 day work week, paid weekly, that is 30% of his wages)

V36,37 - Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

- Mercy - kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them
- It doesn't matter who you identify with in the parable if you are not showing compassion someone in need.
 - Family member
 - Acquaintance

So What Now?

- **Compassion**
 - a heart in which mercy resides
 - Something the even the lawyer can identify when lead there by the Lord.

- **Ask the Lord “Where am I like the lawyer?”**
 - Where am I trying to Justify myself?
 - Reveal to me where I fail to have compassion and show mercy
 - Personal Attention
 - Sacrifice of Time & Comfort
 - Socially Acceptable Behavior
 - **Go and Be The Church**