

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

Faith Portal Church

ADULT

Unit 3 Lesson 4

Supplemental Texts

Mark 10:17-27

Focus Verse

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” – Ecclesiastes 9:10

Introduction

With the intention to test whether Jesus knew and understood the law, or whether He would say something contrary to the law, in order to find a case against Him, an expert in the law of Moses asked Jesus what he must do to have eternal life. The lawyer probably got curious about Jesus calling sinners to repentance through a different, yet unique, way. Christ referred him to the law to state his own understanding and the provision of the law for eternal life.

Deeper Look

Willing To Justify Himself – Luke 10:25-34

The lawyer answered Jesus what the law stipulates as a condition for eternal life (v. 27). He summed up the whole law (Deut 6:4-5; Lev 19:18; Matt 22:37-39). It seems clear that “this do, and thou shalt live” is not a mere instruction. The law was meant to lead us to Christ—Gal 3:24. Jesus made it plain that to “know” the law differs from to “do” the law, a requirement for eternal life. And to fulfil the law of love to God and to the neighbor perfectly, we must be born again. Thus, we see that the lawyer, indeed, fell short, as no one could attain life by the works of the law.

Obviously to make himself appear righteous, as he realized he failed in keeping the law of love, he asked Jesus, “who is my neighbour?” Jesus answered by a parable: a Jew traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho was viciously attacked, robbed of all he had, and left half dead. The priest and Levite, who should show compassion (Exo 23:4-5; Deut 22:1-4), passed by. But a Samaritan, who was not considered as a neighbor to the Jews, stopped and helped. Our Lord exposed him to the real description of a neighbor, as opposed to what the Jews understood (Lev 19:15-18).

Who Was Neighbor Unto Him? – Luke 10:35-37

Having heard the compassion and the work of love the Samaritan showed to the wounded Jew, Jesus posed a thought-provoking question to the lawyer: which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? Jesus clarified that we are neighbor to whom we show compassion, and not the other way around. And now he got what he must do.

Questions

1. Give the reason why the teacher of the law asked Jesus his first question?
2. State the two greatest commandments of the law. See Matt 22:37-39. Does keeping the two greatest commandments of the law come naturally? Who is enabled to keep them, and by what means?
3. Read Mark 10:17-22 and Luke 10:25-29. Describe the differences, if any, between how the two men approached Jesus with their questions, and how Jesus responded to them. What is the best way to approach God with questions?
4. What could be the rationale behind Jesus answering the lawyer by a parable? Explain.
5. What did the priest and the Levite have in common? What did they do differently when they sighted the wounded man? What were their eventual decisions? What reasons could have led to their decisions?
6. Of all the three passersby, who showed the deeds of love? List each deed of love given to the wounded man. Mention the deeds of love you have shown others in the past. Why would Jesus use these three individuals in the parable?
7. Did the parable achieve its purpose by your own estimation? Did the lawyer learn something new from Jesus? What is it? What about you?

Personal Meditation

To whom are you a neighbor? Do you demonstrate mercy and kindness as the Bible enjoins, Col 3:12? Ponder on the parable for a minute. A person was brutally wounded, stripped of all he had, and left to die, and those who knew better—those respected as the servants of God—went by on their way to worship God without doing an act of love to a fellow Jew. Do we not know that our love to God is shown by our love to others? Defrauding a person an act of love is like telling them we do not love them (1 John 4:20), and that is sinful (Jam 4:17). We can never outperform God in love (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9,10); so, all our acts of love combined do not equate to God's.

Still wondering who your neighbor might be? First, neighbor should not be defined based on race, religion, age, or sex. As the Samaritan went above and beyond for the wounded Jew without discrimination, so must we do to all who need our help. Every act of love is not in vain (Matt 10:42). And our light shines even brighter in this dark world as we glorify God through our deeds of love (Matt 5:16). Finally, we ought to ask ourselves whom we are neighbor to.

DAILY STUDY

Monday	Luke 10:25-27
Tuesday	Luke 10:28-30
Wednesday	Luke 10:31-33
Thursday	Luke 10:34-35
Friday	Luke 10:36-37
Saturday	Mark 10:17-22



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