

# The Good Samaritan

**Intro:** Luke 10:25-37 “<sup>25</sup> And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? <sup>26</sup> He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? <sup>27</sup> And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. <sup>28</sup> And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. <sup>29</sup> But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? <sup>30</sup> And Jesus answering said, A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. <sup>31</sup> And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked *on him*, and passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*, <sup>34</sup> And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. <sup>36</sup> Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? <sup>37</sup> And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.” This is one of the best known parables spoken by our Lord. Not only do we study it from that standpoint but because it is so loved and contains so many outstanding lessons. Actually it presents three views of life.

1. Notice the background for this lesson.
  - a. When the Northern Kingdom (Israel) was conquered by Assyria (722 BC.), the leading citizens were deported to other cities.
  - b. Others were brought in from Babylon and other cities.
  - c. Intermarriages took place (the descendants were the Samaritans).
  - d. At the rebuilding of the temple under Zerubbabel at 516 BC., the Samaritans offered help but were flatly refused.
  - e. As a result, they built their own temple at Mt. Gerizim.
2. Notice now the story.
  - a. A lawyer comes tempting Christ (vs. 25 “<sup>25</sup> And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”).
  - b. The lawyer is made to answer his own question (vs. 26 “<sup>26</sup> He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?”), Jesus had used the same statement. Jesus approves his answer (vs. 28 “<sup>28</sup> And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.”).
  - c. The lawyer tries to justify himself by asking who his neighbor is (vs. 29 “<sup>29</sup> But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?”).
  - d. Jesus in response gives this parable, to explain who his neighbor is.
3. Christ presents three views of life.
  - a. The robbers.
  - b. The priest and Levite.
  - c. The Samaritan.

## I. THE ROBBERS.

- A. The Jericho way was rugged and robber infested. Travelers had been attacked so often it became known as “the bloody way.”
- B. They operated on the view: “What is thine shall be mine,” and “Might makes right.”
- C. They had no regard for the possessions, rights, privileges, and physical well-being of others.
  1. We are not to steal.
    - a. Exo. 20:15 <sup>“15</sup> Thou shalt not steal.”
    - b. Eph. 4:28 <sup>“28</sup> Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”
  2. Can be applied figuratively as well as literally.
    - a. What about the person who would rob another of his good name, reputation, etc.?
    - b. What about the person who would steal another person’s spouse (potential or actual).

## II. THE PRIEST AND LEVITE.

- A. They operated on the view: “What is mine is mine and I will keep it.”
  1. Utterly selfishness.
  2. They were without any compassion.
  3. They had no regard or interest in others, their pain and sorrow.
- B. Priest; would not even look on him.
- C. Levite; came and looked upon him; curious but selfish.
- D. This was the religion of the Jew’s day.
  1. It was a formalism, without the heart and feeling.
    - a. Mat. 9:13 <sup>“13</sup> But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”
    - b. Mat. 12:7 <sup>“7</sup> But if ye had known what *this* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.”
  2. The Law of Moses demanded better treatment even of animals.
    - a. Deu. 22:4 <sup>“4</sup> Thou shalt not see thy brother’s ass or his ox fall down by the way, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt surely help him to lift *them* up again.”
    - b. Including an enemy’s animal; Exo. 23:4-5 <sup>“4</sup> If thou meet thine enemy’s ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again. <sup>5</sup> If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.”

## III. THE SAMARITAN.

- A. He operated on the view: “What is mine is thine if it can serve thee.”
- B. Altruistic: giving, interested in others.
  1. Saw the need and made it personal.
  2. Unbound by false barriers; racial, etc.
  3. Gave the help voluntarily.
  4. Gave the help instantly.
  5. Gave help without fear; could have been afraid of the same robbers.
  6. Given as long as needed.

**C. He translated religion into life.**

1. Jam. 2:15-17 <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be *ye* warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? <sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”
2. Mat. 3:8 <sup>8</sup> Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:”
3. Mat. 7:16 <sup>16</sup> Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?”
4. 1 John 3:17-18 <sup>17</sup> But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? <sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

**Conclusion:** Jesus taught that those who are merciful will be blessed by God; Mat. 5:7 <sup>7</sup> Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” Have you been merciful in your life, putting Christianity into action? What Jesus said to the lawyer is likewise applicable to us, “Go and do thou likewise” (vs. 37 <sup>37</sup> And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”)