



Good Shepherd
Sermon-Based Study Guide
Luke 10:25-37 | March 15, 2026
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I. Introduction to this Study

In this week of our Lenten journey following Jesus toward the cross, we come to one of Jesus' most well-known parables: the story of the Good Samaritan.

The story begins with a lawyer asking Jesus a question about eternal life. When Jesus asks him to summarize the Law, the man gives the right answer: love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. But instead of stopping there, the man tries to justify himself by asking another question: "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus responds with a story that challenges our assumptions. In it, the people we expect to help pass by, and the person we least expect becomes the hero. The Samaritan shows costly mercy—stopping, caring, sacrificing, and committing himself to the wounded man's recovery.

But the story does more than tell us to be kind. When we look closely, the Samaritan's actions mirror the way Jesus Himself loves us. In this way, the parable both challenges us and points us to the mercy we have received in Christ.

II. Connecting with One Another

Think of a time when someone showed you unexpected kindness or compassion. What made that moment meaningful to you? What did their actions cost them—time, energy, inconvenience, or something else?

III. Study the Text

Read Luke 10:25-27

- Why do you think the expert in the law approaches Jesus with this question about eternal life?
- How does Jesus respond to the question? Why do you think He answers with another question?
- The man summarizes the Law by quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. Why do you think these two commands are so central to the whole law?
- The text says the man wanted to "justify himself." What do you think that means?



- Why might someone try to narrow the definition of “neighbor”?
- What happens to the man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho?
- What do the priest and Levite do when they see him?
- Why do you think they pass by instead of helping? What excuses might they have made?
- What stands out to you about the Samaritan’s response?
- Notice the stages of his care: immediate help, personal inconvenience, and ongoing responsibility. What do these actions reveal about the nature of mercy?
- Why would it have been surprising for Jesus’ audience that the Samaritan becomes the hero of the story?
- Jesus asks, “Which of these three was a neighbor?” How is this question different from the lawyer’s original question?
- What does Jesus mean when He says, “Go and do likewise”?

IV. Reflect and Respond

- Why do you think we often assume we would be the “Good Samaritan” in the story?
- What factors—busyness, stress, distraction, fear—can keep us from noticing the needs around us?
- When have you experienced the tension between your values and your schedule or priorities?
- Who might be the “neighbor” God is placing in your path right now?
- What might it look like this week to show practical mercy to someone in need?

V. Prayer

Spend time in prayer together:

- Thank God for the mercy He has shown us through Jesus.
- Confess ways you may have overlooked or avoided the needs of others.
- Ask God to give you eyes to see people who are hurting or overlooked.
- Pray for courage and compassion to “go and do likewise.”

VI. Digging Deeper

For additional reflection:

- **Deuteronomy 6:4–9** - How does loving God with all your heart shape the way you treat others?
- **Leviticus 19:18** - What does it mean practically to “love your neighbor as yourself”?
- **Matthew 9:36** - What do we learn from the compassion Jesus shows toward people?
- **1 John 3:16–18** - How does John describe love that moves beyond words into action?

