

## Parables of Luke – part 7

**Lk. 10:25-37** – Parables are familiar to people but not always correctly understood.

--Case in point, the good Samaritan is largely misunderstood.

--Parables are enigmas unless they are explained to us by the Holy Spirit.

--Without a dependence on the Holy Spirit and with an assumption that these are simple stories that are easily understood, the parables (especially this one) have had some bizarre interpretations throughout church history.

--The Good Samaritan is a very simple and attractive story but it wasn't told in a vacuum, it was told in a special situation, and without the context of that situation, we can come up with wrong conclusions.

This is a salvation story; a witnessing story—this is Jesus attempting to get to the heart of a person who thinks he's saved, but isn't.

### **1. This story is part of a personal evangelism encounter with Jesus and a man whose missing heaven unless he realizes he's a sinner and repents.**

--**V. 25** – this lawyer stands up to trap Him in His words

--Remember, he's not unsure of how to get there, he thinks he knows full well.

--His sole purpose is to get Jesus to perjure Himself in front of the crowd.

--These two commandments are the greatest because they are the summation of all ten.

This man is wanting to get into an argument about the details of the application and Jesus backs Him up to a macro perspective.

--He was confident that he was going to heaven because he was confident that he was keeping those laws perfectly—his dig is to get to the bottom of what a neighbor was or wasn't with the hope of pinning Jesus on some issue that would make the crowds stop following Him.

--This parable is not about social justice, it's not about going out of your way for people, primarily; it's about knowing that you can never do enough to save yourself.

### **2. This man thought he'd passed the test and was only questioning the definition of a neighbor.**

"Why was this man traveling alone?"—He wasn't! It's just a story that Jesus has made up to make a point!

--This scenario would probably never happen since no one with any sense would travel the road to Jericho alone.

### **3. The Priest**

--This is a man who knows the law, he knows the greatest commandment and the second greatest commandment.

--How does he do? Very strong language here: he goes to the "anti" side of the road= Greek for as far as he could possibly get.

--"He was trying to avoid robbers himself"; "he was trying not to be defiled for ceremonial reasons", etc. – He wasn't trying to do anything—again, he did not exist

--This man had no reason, no motive, no excuse, no thoughts, because he never existed--we are getting sidetracked from the point of Jesus' story when we start down that path.

--The point is that this priest should have a grasp on eternity and what it takes to get there. Does he love God and his neighbor? NO. Where is he going?

#### **4. Levite -- V. 32**

- He does the same thing as the priest for reasons that do not matter!
- He fails to love God and his neighbor and isn't going to inherit eternal life.
- Now we have two people who will not be in heaven because they failed the entrance exam, and they are two respected people in this religious culture—expected to be guaranteed to be in heaven.

You plan to go to Heaven but you have broken two greatest commandments in Scripture.  
What's your plan?

- The entrance exam to get into heaven is Pass or Fail!

#### **5. The Samaritan – V. 33**

- Now Jesus throws in a shocker – the very existence of Samaritans was considered evil—they were a blight on the world as far as any Jew was concerned.
- If you wanted to really call someone a bad name, you called them a Samaritan: Jn. 8:48.
- This man did what the law required even though he didn't have the law, was restricted from the temple, no access to a sacrifice or worship,

The entire Jewish religious system was exposed as broken by this single story!

- The Samaritan helps him, brings him to an inn, spends the night there taking care of him and leaves money for his care the next day.
- The nightly cost for a stay in an inn was 1/32<sup>nd</sup> of a denarius according to Roman records—so, he leaves with the inn keeper 2 months' worth of room and board for this man.
- He even says that he will repay for whatever else the man rings up during that time.
- Can you smell a little extortion coming? So, what he's willing to do is risk losing a bunch of money just for the hope of caring for this man.
- He does this for a complete stranger; he does this for a man who hated him.
- Would you do that? Of course, you wouldn't "you can't expect me to do something that foolish" – No, I couldn't and wouldn't, but Jesus can!

Lets' let the full point of this parable hit us all between the eyes, shall we? —This is what Jesus says loving your neighbor as yourself looks like.

- Whether you like it or not, this is what you'd do for yourself if you were so injured and in harms way—wouldn't you?
- What part of "love your neighbor as you love yourself" are we not hearing?
- Understand, if you think the point of this story is to make you feel more guilty about buying someone in need some groceries, you've missed it.

--It's not wrong to help people and we should do it, and Jesus wants us to do it, but don't confuse that with loving your neighbor as you love yourself.

- Don't put yourself in this parable. Who does this? "Well, I know someone who did almost that once". Almost and once are not good enough.
- The commandments are rules of thumb and they aren't suggestion, they are ultimatums.
- If you want to earn eternal life, you have to have loved God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and your neighbor exactly as you love yourself—else you are headed for Hell.

What are you saying? Are we all headed for Hell? Exactly!! We need to search for another solution, and that solution is to throw ourselves at the mercy of the One who owns heaven and eternal life, beg His forgiveness, accept His Son as the substitute payment for our sins.

- Rom. 3:19-20**

## **6. Who's my Neighbor?**

--Jesus turned the whole thing over on this guy—He's changed the question from "Who's my Neighbor" to "Are you a Neighbor?"

--It's not "Who's qualified to be my neighbor?" but "Am I a neighbor who loves in an unqualified way?"

--"Forget trying to decide who qualifies for you to love them and demonstrate a love that knows no qualifications."