

STORY

The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Lord, this parable also speaks to me about loving my neighbor. You have shown to me such great love by sending Jesus to be my Savior from sin. You saw my need and performed all that was needed to meet my needs. Help me to have a thankful heart that seeks to love You and my neighbor with such a great love as You have shown to me. Help me to recognize my neighbor in my students, in the people who live around me, in the people of my country and anyone who lives in this world. Keep me from being prejudiced against anyone in any way. Guard my tongue, guide my hands, and kindle my heart to do whatever will meet the needs of those around me. This I ask, trusting in Jesus who has done so much for me. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Lawyer - the same as a scribe; someone who studied the Law of God enough for people to consider him an expert in it.

Wanting to justify himself - the lawyer wanted to show off how much he knew and how well he had kept the law.

Jerusalem to Jericho - the second is 15 miles northeast of the first and 1,575 feet lower.

Levite - a member of the tribe of Levi who served in the temple, probably as a teacher.

Samaritan - a person who lived in Samaria, the region between Judea and Galilee. These people were descendants of a mix of Jews and heathens. Their religious beliefs, though they contained some of the Scripture, also mixed in heathen beliefs. The Jews despised them, holding a deep prejudice against them.

OUTER AIM

Jesus showed how a man was a neighbor to a stranger.

INNER AIM

God's love prompts us to love all men as neighbors.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol.2, pp. 230-236)

A parable is an earthly story with a spiritual meaning. Because it is easier to learn from examples and concrete illustrations, Jesus used events and pictures from daily life to make His point. This parable is a practical one illustrating, "Who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:25

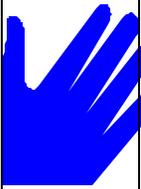
- ▶ The leaders of the Jewish people were often trying to trap Jesus in what He said, rather than actually trying to learn from Him. This is another of those occasions.
- ▶ The question contradicts itself, because an inheritance is not usually earned, but rather a gift. But Jesus overlooks that issue because He wanted to help this lawyer grow, not embarrass him.

v. 26

- ▶ Jesus, knowing the man considered himself an expert on the law of God, asked him to answer the question.

v. 27

- ▶ The Lawyer quotes from the Scriptures: Lev. 19:18 and, with a little enhancement, Deut. 6:5.



v. 28

- ▶ Jesus agreed that by following the Law of God exactly, a person can live just as Lev. 18:5 says.
- ▶ But Jesus hoped that the man would realize that no one can keep the Law perfectly.

v. 29

- ▶ But the lawyer then wanted to justify asking the first question.
- ▶ Perhaps he hoped that either Jesus would answer wrongly or that he himself would be shown to be a true keeper of the law. So he asked, "Who is my neighbor?"

v. 30

- ▶ Jesus answers with a parable, a story to illustrate a moral or religious message.
- ▶ Concrete examples teach better than abstract thoughts or phrases.
- ▶ Jesus describes someone in serious need. Because of the location, the man likely was a Jew whom the thieves robbed and left wounded for dead, though Scripture doesn't say.

v. 31

- ▶ By coincidence, yet God works in all things (Acts 15:18), though this is a story, a priest came along the road.
- ▶ A priest was definitely a teacher and servant of God's Word. He surely should have known how to do the right thing before God and man.
- ▶ But, whether in fear of the robbers or just being selfish, the priest went to the opposite side of the road in order to go around the dying man. No sign of mercy there.

v. 32

- ▶ In the same way, a Levite, also a servant and teacher of the Law of God, should have done better, but also, avoided any contact with the dying man.

v. 33

- ▶ A Samaritan man was traveling there and came to the place where the man was.
- ▶ Samaritans were despised by the Jews as people not having true and pure religion, as being heathens and unworthy of respect.
- ▶ This man, unlearned though he was in the law of God, had genuine compassion on the man.
- ▶ He didn't just have pity, utter an "Oh my, that's too bad," and walk on.

v. 34

- ▶ He went to the man where he was and helped him in his need.
- ▶ Using the medicine of his day, he patched the wounds and brought him to safety where he could take care of the man himself.

v. 35

- ▶ And even though he had to continue his journey, the Samaritan paid money for their night's stay as well as how ever long it took the man to recover. He made sure that the wounded man would be taken care of well.

v. 36

- ▶ Then Jesus asked the lawyer his own question. Which of the three treated the wounded man as his neighbor?

v. 37

- ▶ The Lawyer, unwilling even to say the word "Samaritan," described him as the one who showed mercy.
- ▶ Jesus then replied in effect, if you consider yourself an expert of the law, then don't be just a reader and teacher of the law, you also need to perform the mercy behind the law.
- ▶ Law without mercy is a cruel, loveless taskmaster.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Lord, this parable also speaks to me about loving my neighbor. You have shown to me such great love by sending Jesus to be my Savior from sin. You saw my need and performed all that was needed to meet my needs. Help me to have a thankful heart that seeks to love You and my neighbor with such a great love as You have shown to me. Help me to recognize my neighbor in my teacher, in my family, in the people who live around me, in the people of my country and anyone who lives in this world. Keep me from being prejudiced against anyone in any way. Guard my tongue, guide my hands, and kindle my heart to do whatever will meet the needs of any and all of my neighbors. For I know that You will enable me to do all that You set before me. This I ask, trusting in Jesus who has done so much for me. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Briefly review the previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible.

Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account). Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

APPLICATIONS

1. Who then is our neighbor? Our neighbor is anyone who we see has a need. God created and died for all people and all people have the same great need for a Savior. (Gal 3:28. Matt. 28:19) Discuss prejudice for that is what the Jews felt towards Samaritans. Against whom do people today practice prejudice? Think both locally and in other countries. Not only other races, but Christians throughout the world also face prejudice and persecution.
2. In thanksgiving for how Jesus willingly came to our aid by giving up His life into death for us, we want to love our neighbors as ourselves, as God asked. Love goes beyond fine words when we are talking to others. It also takes action to help those we love. And since our neighbor is anyone that we see with a need, we never lack opportunity to show our thankfulness to God through loving actions towards our neighbor. Discuss some ways that God gives us opportunities to love our neighbors. Some states have passed "Good Samaritan" laws, encouraging people to help others.
3. The Lawyer believed that he was good enough at keeping the law that he could earn eternal life. He wanted to show that off to others by having Jesus acknowledge it. But Jesus showed him that keeping the law goes beyond just following the letter of the law. It extended also to having a heart ready to love, no matter who received that love. Show from Luther's explanation to the 5th commandment and others how this is true. As we see that we cannot keep the Law of God perfectly, how then do we hope to inherit eternal life?

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Luke 10:27 - So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

Middle any of the above and...

Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

John 15:5 - "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Upper any of the above and...

Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Matthew 9:13 - But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy and not sacrifice." For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

HYMN CHOICES

"That Man a Godly Life Might Live" (TLH 287 1,6,11-12)

"O Holy Spirit, Enter In" (TLH 235 1-3,6-8)

"I Gave my Life for Thee" (TLH 405)

"Soldiers of the Cross, Arise" (TLH 501)