

Luke 10.25-37

The Good Samaritan is Bad News!

1 of BEST KNOWN & LOVED stories of JESUS the Master TEACHER

Section 9.51 Jesus Set Face to Jerusalem > place of Suffering & DEATH

Context: 70 Gospel Workers “Kingdom of God Near” Returned w JOY

Luke: Expands JOY: Gospel Workers > God Himself – Father, Son, Spirit

21 Jesus rejoiced in Holy Spirit “I thank U Father, Lord of heaven & earth

Nothing MORE Important v. 20 “your names written in heaven”

1. The Trap: *reasoning out his Self-Justification*

a. Protecting the Flock NO SCENE Shift from Jesus’ W to Returnees

Unnamed Lawyer > MONITORING Jesus’ Fidelity to LAW as he Sees It

Lawyer > Undisputed Authorities 1st C Judaism: Knew what God SAID

21,23 Jesus: "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because *you have hidden these things from the wise and learned*, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure....to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what *you see*"

Offended by Unlettered Rabbi > Lowers God’s Bar for Rag-Tag Galileans

NO PLACE in HEAVEN for WISE and LEARNED LAWYER like him??

Luke 5.21 Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy?.."

6.7 Pharisees & teachers of law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus

v. 25 behold, a certain lawyer stood up / Mock Disciple?

b. Posing as Faithful v. 25 "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Great Knowledge of God’s Law – But NO Assurance of God’s LOVE

Key to Understanding Story > JUSTIFY Himself – IMPOSSIBLE!

NOT asking about WAY OF LIFE but WAY TO Life – What must I DO?

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil. Jeremiah 13.23

no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing law Rom 3.20

DO for Eternal Life? Wrong! Even THINKING You can Do It is Wrong

Lawyer: Wise & Understanding, Common Assump NAME Written Book

Salvation NOT based Religious/Social Status > Sovereign Grace of God

c. Parroting the Fathers EXPERT in God's Law > yet BLINDED!

v. 26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

Argue: ad hominem 'argument to the man': Lawyer what does Law Say?

Jesus RECLAIMS the Agenda > Sends Bible Scholar BACK TO the Bible

Jesus NOT have ONE PLAN or SET of ANSWERS for ALL SEEKERS

That Jesus wrote prescriptions rather than offer patent medicine should caution teachers and preachers about hasty generalizations and uncritical transfer of Jesus' words to new situations.

Fred Craddock

v. 27 He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' ; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "

Profound Connection KEY Vss of Hebrew Scriptures NOT Original IDEA

Great Answer! Right Answer! But NOT HIS Answer > Rabbi SO & SO

1st C Judaism > Salvation = Good Works + God's Blessing // USA Today

Great is Torah (*the Law of Moses*), for it gives to them that practice it, life in this world and in the world to come.

Mishnah *Pirke Aboth* 6.7

d. Parading his Foolishness Trap Set - That Jesus say agnst Holy Law

v. 28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied.

"Do this CONTINUALLY (Present Tense) and you will live."

Jesus SPRINGS a REVERSE TRAP - Honor Law?! Then OBEY IT!

The love that God requires is perfect love – not just once, as they lawyer seemed to think, but all the time. To love God truly with heart, soul, mind, and strength is to love him with everything we are and have. To love our neighbors properly is to love them with the same intense interest and constant concern that we have for ourselves. But who has ever loved in such a wholehearted and supremely selfless way?

Philip Ryken

This Point > Lawyer should FALL on KNEES – Begged for MERCY

"Lord, how can a sinner like me keep your holy and perfect law?!"

v. 29 But wanted justify himself, asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

LAWYER – Doing what we often do – TRYING to SAVE FACE!

ALL STARTED WHEN HE: v. 25stood up to test Jesus.

WHO is my Neighbor = WHO do I HAVE to Love? > SELECTIVITY

"EXPERT in LAW": ASK Question But ALREADY KNOW ANSWER

GOOD Lawyer looking for Loop Hole in Law – How to GET OUT of It!

Law MIRROR > Shines Beauty of God & BADNESS of All us Sinners

2. The Twist: *rejoicing in the Savior's Justification*

Want justification by Law? Here is how EXTREME Law's Demands Are:

v. 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

Jerus 2500 ft ABOVE Sea Level/ Jericho 800 ft BELOW/ 3400 ft 18 miles

"Bloody Way" STEEP ROAD - ROCKY, DESOLATE Caves 4 Robbers

Anonymous Man > No Name, No Clothes, No ID > Just MAN in NEED

REALISTIC Story - not called Parable - COULD HAVE OCCURRED

a. Too Busy to be Neighbors vs. 31,32 priest happened to be going down same road, saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

When story is TOLD today – Christians BOO & HISS 2 GUYS!

Jesus LISTENERS CHEERED these HEROES – Religious Leaders!

BEHAVIOR was NOT SHOCKING – though NOT COMMENDABLE

WHO of US Not HURRY PAST Such Potentially Dangerous Situation?

Road was known as DANGEROUS

Maybe fallen man was TRICK

What could they do in REMOTE AREA

Gone from home for one month EAGER TO GET HOME

Not want Be DEFILED by Unclean Man

Jesus gives NO REASON! No Reason NOT to Stop for Man!!

When they saw the victim, theirs was a choice between a duty and a duty. Fred Craddock

SAME is TRUE for Us Very OFTEN > See such People on ROAD

We not on COUNTRY STROLL – Wandering – Going Somewhere Impt

AND we ALREADY LATE! – Put Down our HEAD and PRESS ON BY!

Princeton Univ. Sociology Study > SEM Students > Teach this Passage

Near Door of Mtg Rm / MAN lying in Pain on GROUND

Nearly ALL Seminarians did NOT Stop & Help

WHY Religious Leaders did NOTHING for Wounded Man?

Get themselves UNCLEAN? NOT LIKELY

1. Traveling FROM Jerusalem – TEMPLE Duties would be OVER NOW

2. Perhaps BECAUSE they were Priests!

Heretics should be pushed into ditch & not pulled out. Rabbinic Saying

NO Speculation or HINT Given about their MOTIVES > Matter of FACT

STARK Reality – They just DO NOTHING!

When am I a bad neighbor? When I avoid people in obvious need. When I come up with flimsy excuses for refusing to get involved with someone who has a legitimate claim on my love.

Philip Ryken

b. Too 'Bad' to be a Neighbor Master Storyteller: Shock & Surprise

EXPECT – Good Jewish Layman – More Righteous than Corrupt Priests

v. 33 a Samaritan, came where man was; he saw him, he took pity on him.

Samaritan!?! > can HEAR GASP of Crowd > NEVER EXPECTED him!

Samaritan - LEGAL DEF: "a sinner and an unrighteous person"

LAWYER - and any other Jewish Listener - EXPECTED WORST

Evil Samaritan would probably FINISH OFF the Wounded, Helpless Jew

a Samaritan village...did not welcome him (Jesus), because he was heading for Jerusalem

Luke 9.52,53

Ceremonially: UNCLEAN/ Socially: OUTCAST / Religiously: HERETIC

Jews do not associate with Samaritans John 4.9

WORST INSULT - Jews called Jesus a "Samaritan": The Jews answered him (*Jesus*), "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?" John 8.48

Out of Place > What is Samaritan doing on road FROM JERUSALEM?

No Religious TITLE > Just TRAVELING MERCHANT (Indonesia)

vs. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil...

CARE > EXAGGERATION – Way BEYOND what Anyone Expects

A Tea-Party Republican fell among thieves & Homosexual Cross-Dresser came and helped him;
a Conservative Evangelical fell among thieves and an Islamic Terrorist came and rescued him,
go and do likewise!

Puts self at Great RISK for a STRANGER in a very DANGEROUS Area

EXCESSIVE Amounts of TIME & MONEY – Not FAMILY or FRIEND

NO PLANS to be REPAYED – does not Leave any CONTACT Info

- Enters INN – Place of Potential DANGER in those Days

OPENS Unmonitored Expense Account with UNKNOWN Innkeeper

Lawyer - Priest & Levite ALL KNEW LAW AND ITS DEMANDS

Samaritan – Little /No knowledge True God – Fulfilled Law **Why?**

Social Custom? - BETTER FOR HIM TO KILL THE JEW

Wanted to Look Good? - WHO WOULD NOTICE

Sense of Guilt or Duty? - CANNOT EVOKE TRUE MERCY

v. 33 “he took pity on him” HEART OF JESUS

c. To be a Neighbor v. 36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

QUESTION > Who ACTED as a Neighbor? – NOT who IS my Neighbor

NOW who PROVED to BE a NEIGHBOR?

Neighbor > Something we Are – Not Something we Have: Way of Life!

v. 37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Lawyer Now Answers OWN Question > What to DO for Eternal Life?

A LOT – A LOT MORE than any Selfish, Busy, Prejudiced Human DO!

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6.8

Be merciful just as your Father is merciful! Luke 6.36

Mercy Spontaneous: Not planned or calculated - INSTINCT, REFLEX

Mercy LIFE GIVING - SAVED LIFE OF WOUNDED MAN

Giver himself gains life - KNOWING LAW / NO ETERNAL LIFE

Mercy FOR EVERYONE - EVEN ENEMIES DESERVE OUR MERCY

Do not do these things to gain eternal life, but because when you were beaten, bloodied, and left for dead, Jesus came and showed mercy to you. Philip Ryken

Good Samaritan – IDEAL Man – All of us Should BE a GOOD Samaritan

PROBLEM > Cannot be! Good Samaritan is BAD NEWS!

d. Too Big to be Just a Neighbor

To the expert in the law, the wounded man was a subject to discuss

To the robbers, the wounded man was someone to use and exploit

To the religious men, the wounded man was someone to be avoided

To the innkeeper, the wounded man was a customer to serve for a fee

To the Samaritan, the wounded man was a human being worth caring for

To Jesus, all of them - and all of us - are worth dying for

Jesus – GOOD SAMARITAN?? – this Gives him TOO LITTLE PRAISE!

MERCY is Greater > We were not DYING – We were DEAD in Sin

DISTANCE is Greater > NOT Cross ROAD > Highest Heaven to Earth

COST Greater > Not Day's Travel & Coins > Very LIFE upon CROSS

Eternal life is something inherited. And to receive an inheritance, you need to be an heir...It is only when by God's grace we have become the right sort of people – his people, by the new birth – that we begin to do the right sort of things. Michael Wilcock

In Jesus we EXPERIENCE MERCY

By Jesus we are TRANSFORMED by Mercy

With Jesus we are called to GIVE MERCY

Eternal Life - CANNOT BE BOUGHT - COSTS US EVERYTHING

African man goes into shop - sees something very wonderful - must have

Owner "you can't buy it, too expensive" / Man "I must have it"

Owner - How much in pocket? Bicycle? House? Things? Family? Self?

Eternal Life - CANNOT BE BOUGHT - COSTS US EVERYTHING *****

Psalm 10 – Why Do You Hide Yourself?

Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? **Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?**

In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor; **let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.**

For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, **and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord.**

In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; **all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”**

His ways prosper at all times; **your judgments are on high, out of his sight; as for all his foes, he puffs at them.**

He says in his heart, “I shall not be moved; **throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity.**”

His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression; **under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.**

He sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the innocent. **His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless; he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;**

he lurks that he may seize the poor; he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net. **The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might.**

He says in his heart, “God has forgotten, **he has hidden his face, he will never see it.**”

Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted. **Why does the wicked renounce God and say in his heart, “You will not call to account”?**

But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation, that you may take it into your hands; **to you the helpless commits himself; you have been the helper of the fatherless.**

Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer; call his wickedness to account till you find none. **The Lord is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land.**

O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; **you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.**
Amen and Amen