

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN // Luke 10:25-37

Morning message from the series, The Gospel of Luke

There are two ditches people may fall into in reading this parable—they may allegorize (trying to see symbolic significance in each element of the story) or they may moralize (seeing it as only a lesson of philanthropy). There are implications and applications of the parable, but these are not the main point. When we consider the greater context, we see that Jesus rebukes the self-righteous and evangelizes the spiritually smug.

Six Gospel Observations of the Parable:

- 1. The question of eternal life is the right place to start a spiritual conversation. Humans are made in the image of God and thus cannot escape the gnawing truth of something more past the grave.**
- 2. Right standing with God comes only through the perfect keeping of his law—which we cannot do. The law is good, but we are not.**
- 3. Saving our spiritual face is a natural reflex. When confronted with our sin, we as fallen humanity seek to silence our conscience and hide our guilt.**

There are three problems with the question “Who is my neighbor?”:

1. It’s the wrong question—it epitomizes self-righteousness.
 2. It creates a caste system for neighbors—Jews are to love Jews, Pharisees are to love Pharisees.
 3. It seeks to undermine the Law—the issue is not about identifying our neighbor, it is about the quality of our love.
- 4. Jesus rebukes the man with a parable. The lawyer did not need his theology corrected as much as he needed his soul converted.**
 - 5. Jesus asked the right question. There is a big difference between asking, “Who is my neighbor?” and “Are you a good neighbor?”**
 - 6. The parable is meant to pierce our hearts. No one can love like this. Such a life and such a love is an impossibility except for One.**

The Main Point: Jesus is a greater Good Samaritan. Jesus loves perfectly and fulfills the Law. And nobody can love you like Jesus loves you.

How can we apply this parable?

1. There is always someone in a ditch. We live in a world that is mugged.
2. External religion merits nothing in the kingdom. You can’t fake it forever.
3. Never miss an opportunity to be compassionate. It goes a long way.
4. God uses nobodies to do his work. Help may come from ordinary people.
5. Ask God to let you see through his eyes. The world needs good neighbors.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways has Jesus been the greater Good Samaritan to you? What demonstrations of his care for you have you seen in your life?
2. What opportunities has God given you to show compassion to your neighbors?
3. Does this parable pierce your soul? How does the realization that only Jesus can love like this affect how we see ourselves and others?