

Luke 10:25-42

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

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

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.’ ”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

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. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke 10:27-42

1. What are the greatest inconveniences in your life? (Ones involving expenditures of your time? Of money? Emotional issues? Travel plans? Working with others?)
2. Did the expert in the law who questioned and then answered Jesus understand what was necessary to inherit eternal life? Did he summarize the Law correctly? (Deut 6:5, Leviticus 19:18)
3. After Jesus affirmed his correct reply, what did the legal expert then want to do? (10:29)
4. Jesus replied to the legal expert's question, "who is my neighbor?" with perhaps the best-known parable in the Bible. Let's consider this parable from the point of view of the priest and the Levite. Could they have had good reasons for behaving the way that they did?
5. What natural inclinations make it easier for you to act like the priest and the Levite rather than the Samaritan?
6. What was the Samaritan's response to the situation? Why did he help the beaten man? (10:33) How practical was his approach?
7. How does it feel when someone has mercy on you? How do you feel when you get in trouble because of your own stupid actions? How does mercy feel then?
8. In what ways can you personally or can we as Christians be more like the Samaritan? Is this something to aspire to? Is this something God expects of you?
9. How would you summarize the message of this parable?

Luke 10:27-42 — Notes to Leader

2. Deut 6:5 - 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Lev 19:18 - Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

4. It's 7:15 p.m. and the priest of Our Lady Queen of Apostles has just arrived at Renaissance Center, his train an hour late. 300 people will be attending mass at 8:00 p.m. at the church on Prescott St in Hamtramack, the Polish district of Detroit. There are no cabs, so he'll have to walk. His usual route on Woodward Avenue and Holbrook St is 4 miles, but today he'll have to take the shorter, but much more dangerous route of Gratiot Ave and Mt. Elliott St. Just past the Cadillac assembly plant he sees a man along side of the road who has been mugged. He considers stopping but knows that 300 people will be waiting for him to conduct mass so he hurries on by.

9. 1) The lack of love is easy to justify, even though it is never right.

2) Our neighbor is anyone of any race, creed, social background, or IQ who is in need.

3) Love means acting to meet the person's need. There is no good reason for refusing to help.