



Teachings of the Teacher – A study in the parables of Jesus
The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

Lesson 4

A lawyer came to Jesus to ask Him a question commonly debated by the Jews: *What shall I do to inherit eternal life?* Great question – but, a question asked with a wrong motive – *to test Jesus*; a question asked looking to the wrong source for the answer – the law. Jesus sent him to the law for his answer, not because the law saves us, but because the law shows us that we need to be saved. Instead of being justified by turning to Jesus for mercy, he tried to justify himself by seeking a clarification – a clarification which only revealed how very far he was from inheriting the eternal life only Jesus could give him. The *lawyer* knew that *love* was the answer. But, he had no power to apply it. As believers, we have that power – but do we find ourselves identifying with the lawyer asking, *Who is my neighbor?* hoping the answer will excuse us from helping?

OBSERVATION: Read Luke 10:25-37

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. Key words help us to better understand a parable. We have listed below key words of this parable. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. As you mark key words, mark any personal pronouns or other words that refer to the key word which represents a person (*Jesus, Pharisee, lawyer, etc.*)
Key Words: *God, Jesus, lawyer, priest, Levite, Samaritan, and (the) man (who fell among thieves)*
 - a. The contrasting word *but* is used two times. Mark each time this word is used. Chose one of the times this word is used. Record what is being contrasted and the significance of the contrast.
 - b. Underline the commands or instructions in verses 27, 28, and 37.

3. Notice the actions of the *Samaritan*. Make a list of what he did.

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. What are some examples of a *neighbor* in need?
2. When has someone gone out of his or her way to help you?
3. How do you tend to react when you see a need of someone who is not a relative or friend?

THE QUESTIONS: Read Luke 10:25-29

1. A *lawyer* stood up and tested Jesus. Record the lawyer's question, word for word.
 - a. There was something wrong with this question. Do you see it? Underline the fifth word (the two letter word, beginning with "d") of the question.
 - b. This *lawyer* functioned in the Jewish law. He was a specialist. Jesus met him on his own turf. In good rabbinical form, He answered a question with a question. What were Jesus' questions?
2. The *lawyer's* answer was correct. Record the law he quoted using:
Deuteronomy 6:5

Leviticus 19:18

- a. These two commandments summarize the entire law of God. Consider the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). How does following these two commandments show that a person is following all of the law?
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3. Responding to the *lawyer's* question as to what he could *do to inherit eternal life*, what did Jesus say? verse 28
 - a. What additional instructions does God give in Leviticus 18:5?

 - b. The purpose of the law is to show us that we cannot comply to God's holy standards. We fail miserably. Consider a time when you were told to do something that was utterly impossible for you to do. How did you feel?

 - c. This *lawyer* appeared to feel neither defeated nor hopeless. However, he did feel the need to *justify* himself. Luke 18:9-14 records another story of a Pharisee (another leader who lived by the law) who tried to *justify* himself. Read the story and record who *went down to his house justified*.
 - 1.) What lesson can we learn from this as it applies to the *lawyer* in our story in Luke 10?

 - d. Jesus told the *lawyer* that he had *answered rightly*. But, the *lawyer* needed a clarification. What did he ask Jesus? Luke 10:29
 - 1.) What do you think this *lawyer* wanted to know?

THE ANSWER: Read Luke 10:30-35

1. Jesus answered the *lawyer's* question with a parable. He told the story of a man on his way to Jericho from Jerusalem, a 17 mile "hike", descending about 1,000 feet. This was wild country with many places for robbers to hide. A man was attacked, robbed, beaten, and left *half dead*. Both a *priest* and a *Levite* saw the wounded man. What did they do?
 - a. What did the *Levite* do that the *priest* did not do?

1.) What difference did this observation of the Levite make?

b. What are some ways we can *pass by on the other side* when we see someone in need?

1.) What does 1 John 3:17 teach us about this?

2. *But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was* (Luke 10:33). What do we learn from John 4:9 about the Jews and *Samaritans*?

a. Reread your list of the *Samaritan's* actions from page 2. What word did Jesus use in Luke 10:33 to describe the motivation for his actions?

1.) Using synonyms, define the word *compassion*.

THE LESSON: Read Luke 10:36-37

1. In concluding the parable, Jesus asked the *lawyer* a question. What was it?

a. What was the *lawyer's* answer?

b. What did Jesus tell the *lawyer* to **do**?

2. Jesus came to *fulfill the law* (Matthew 5:17). He not only could quote the law as did the *lawyer*, Jesus alone met all of its requirements. What did Jesus say in John 13:34?

- a. Spend some time reading a few of the accounts of Jesus' *compassion* which surround the following verses. Choose as many as you have time to do and record how Jesus expressed *compassion*.

Matthew 14:14

Matthew 15:32

Matthew 18:27

Matthew 20:34

Mark 1:41

Mark 5:19

Mark 9:22

Luke 7:13

- 1.) What can we learn from Jesus' example?

3. The chapter prior to the story of the good *Samaritan*, Luke 9:51-56, relays the account of Jesus and the disciples traveling through a *village of the Samaritans*. Those in the village rejected Jesus. Read verse 54. What did James and John want to do to the *Samaritans*?

- a. What was Jesus' response?

- 1.) How does this speak to you about showing *compassion* even to those who reject you?

4. The *Samaritan* in our parable showed by his actions what *love* is. What does James 2:17,18 teach us about actions (*works*) and *faith*?

REVIEW:

1. The *lawyer* asked the wrong question. Notice the twist of the use of the word *neighbor* from how the *lawyer* used it in verse 29 to how Jesus used it in verse 36. Rather than asking, "*Who is my neighbor?*", he should have asked, "*to whom can I be a neighbor?*". How do these two questions differ in regards to motive?
2. Although the *lawyer* was not a character in the parable, describe his heart for *loving* as opposed to that of the *Samaritan's* heart.
3. Each of the *Samaritan's* actions reflected a cost or inconvenience. Which of his actions particularly challenged you?
4. Who might you thank this week for being a *neighbor* to you?
5. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson?

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
- Galatians 6:2

Observation Worksheet

Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" ²⁷So 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.'" ²⁸And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." ²⁹But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'" ³⁶So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" ³⁷And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."