

RCMI L-Path Teaching

July 3, 2022

TITLE: The Good Samaritan

TEXT: Luke 10: 25-37

Big Idea: Let us respond to God's love in faith and display that love by loving our neighbors, even those we despise.

INTRODUCTION:

- July Theme: THE PARABLES OF JESUS (Stories for All People).
- BI: The parables that Jesus told were part of his gospel; therefore, they are parables for all peoples throughout all nations and at all times. They reflect human nature.
- The word '*parable*,' the Greek word '*parabole*,' means "a placing beside; a comparison; equivalent to or to compare.". The dictionary defines a parable as a short figurative story, designed to convey some truth or moral lesson," or "a brief story using real events or facts to illustrate a moral or spiritual truth."
- One of the more well-known parables is that of "**The Good Samaritan**" in Luke 10:30-37. But I consider this the most abused parable since it's often misused. Many treat it as an allegory wherein the man who fell among thieves is the lost sinner, and the Good Samaritan is Jesus.
- In this study, we shall review the setting, the story, the sequel, and the significance of the parable in keeping up with Jesus' original purpose in telling it...]

I. THE SETTING [vv.25- 29]

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." ²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" - Luke 10: 25-29 [NASB]

The Conversation Between Jesus And A Lawyer

1. A lawyer stands up to "test" Jesus.
 - A '*lawyer*' in this context would be well-versed in the Law of Moses.
 - The lawyer "stood" up, perhaps to draw attention to himself and his question was similar to that of the rich young ruler [Luke 18:18] "*Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?*"
2. Jesus answered the question by pointing him back to the Law. [***“What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?” -Lk. 10:26***]
3. The lawyer replied with a proper understanding of what the Law taught concerning eternal life [vv.27-28]. He quotes from:

- *Deuteronomy 6:5, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." And...*
- *Leviticus 19:18b, "...but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."*

4. Jesus says in v.28, "And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

- **Do this, and you will live. Hold up; that's salvation by works!** It sounds like you must do something in exchange for life, but you must understand God's love. Listen up because this is fundamental: we never initiate the love for God. [S] We humans never initiate the love for God; all we can do is respond to God's love.
- 1 John 4: 10,19, ¹⁰*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins...¹⁹we love because he first loved us."*
- So he says, "You shall love the Lord your God," you're simply referring to your response to the love of God. He's talking about trust; you love the Lord your God because you trust Him in response to His love for you.
- *When it comes to God, you only respond in His love; when it comes to your neighbor, you take the initiative to love.* You love your neighbor as yourself; you take the initiative. So Jesus said, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

5. But the lawyer is not finished... [V.29]

- He asks the question which precipitates the parable: "**And who is my neighbor?**"

II. THE STORY [vv.30-35]

"Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he encountered robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.³¹ And by coincidence a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.³² Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³³ But a Samaritan who was on a journey came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,³⁴ and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own animal, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.³⁵ On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.'" -Luke 10: 30-35

- *"Priest and Levite are mentioned here partly to show that these were the persons who, from the nature of their office, were most obliged to perform works of mercy; and from whom a person in distress had a right to expect immediate assistance and comfort, and their inhuman conduct here was a flat breach of the law." (Clarke)*

"But a Samaritan who was on a journey came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion." - Luke 10:33

- Generally speaking, Jews and Samaritans despised each other both racially and religiously. Instead of passing by, the Samaritan loved him sacrificially. He didn't wait to be asked; to see the need right in front of him was enough to make him do something. He also gave freely of both his time and his resources.

III. THE SEQUEL [vv. 36-37] [Follow-Up Question]

- ³⁶Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" ³⁷And he said, "The one who showed compassion to him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."- Luke 10: 36-37 [NASB]
- The lawyer knew the true neighbor, yet he could not bring himself to say the name "Samaritan." We might have expected him to be an enemy, but he was instead a neighbor who showed compassion to him.
- Notice that Jesus turned the focus of the original question: From "Who is my neighbor?" to "Who was the one that was neighbor to the one in need?" This indicates that Jesus sought to draw attention to what it means to "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- The purpose of the parable, given the context and how Jesus applied it, is clear: Jesus teaches us who our neighbors are and what it means to love your neighbor as yourself.
- What's this parable saying? What is the significance of this parable? I see three critical points.

IV. THE SIGNIFICANCE

- It's not enough to see a need; you must do something.
- What you do is dependent on what you see.
- What you see is determined by what you are.

CHALLENGE: "Go and do the same."

- Go and do the same; first, respond to the love of God because all we can do is react in simple love and faith and display that love by loving your neighbor, even despised people.
- It is all about the proper application of the text of Scripture. It does us no good to delight in the story of the Good Samaritan if our hearts remain cold and merciless to those in need.

DISCUSSION:

- What are the two questions that the lawyer asked Jesus? Share.
- How do we show our wholehearted love for God? [By responding to His love.]
- How do we show our love for our neighbors? [Take the initiative to love.]
- Define a neighbor. [Neighbor is the one who shows compassion to those in need.]