

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25–37

Main Point

The gospel changes your heart so that you will truly love others. Show your gospel change by your love for others.

I. Introduction

- A. Even the most unchurched people will likely have heard in some setting or situation a reference to “the good Samaritan.” This story which Christ gave to a Jewish lawyer has become one of the most famous of all his parables. Yet so many people misunderstand what Jesus drives at with this parable.
- B. It can be easy for us to read this famous parable and simply think that Jesus is teaching an *ethic*: “You should love all people.” To be certain: Jesus is teaching no *less* than that ethic—we *should* love all people. However, Jesus is teaching *much more* than simply an ethic.
- C. Christ is teaching us that someone who has a transformed heart by the work of God’s Holy Spirit will demonstrate it with an unreserved compassion and love for others.

II. Exposition

A. The Path to Life — *Love God (10:25–28)*

1. The Question: *What shall I do to inherit eternal life?*
 - a) The lawyer (a professional theologian of the Jewish people) asked a question that was not really a good faith question—it was more of a challenge to Jesus.
 - b) The question of eternal life relates to what one will enjoy in eternity.
 - c) Jesus responds to the lawyer with a question, a common Jewish debate tactic: “What is your reading?”
 - d) The lawyer then quotes Deuteronomy 6:4 (commonly referred to as the “Shema”) and Leviticus 19:18 as the summary of the Law and what one must do to inherit eternal life.
2. The Answer: *Love the Lord with all of your being.*
 - a) Jesus tells the lawyer that his answer is correct. “Do this, and you *will* live.” This might be shocking to those who understand that there is nothing anyone can *do* to inherit eternal life. Why would Jesus say that the lawyer’s answer is correct?
 - b) Only those who are perfect inherit eternal life. Only those who love the Lord their God with *all* of their heart, with *all* of their soul, with *all* of their strength, and

with *all* of their mind will inherit eternal life. Only those who love the Lord with the totality of their being will enjoy the future of eternal life with Him.

- c) Those who love the Lord with all their being will demonstrate it with a love to all others.
- d) The lawyer, however, wanted to *justify himself* and asked Jesus “So who is my neighbor?” His desire to justify himself was of course an attempt to soften what the Law required.

B. The People to Love — *Your Neighbor* (10:29–37)

1. The Parable Proper

- a) The Victim: *A Jewish man who fell among thieves on a trip to Jericho from Jerusalem*
- b) The Uncaring Neighbors: *A Jewish priest and a Jewish Levite, who both passed by on the other side*
- c) The Caring Neighbor: *A Samaritan man who compassionately tended to the poor Jew’s needs*
 - (1) He bound his wounds
 - (2) He brought him to a safe place
 - (3) He tended to the man
 - (4) He paid for all the man’s expenses

2. The Parable Point

- a) Jesus’ question was pointed: *Who was the neighbor to the wounded and helpless Jew?*
- b) The answer was obvious: *The one who showed compassion.*
- c) The point: *Go and do likewise.* Your neighbor is everyone—without distinction.

3. The Parable Problem

- a) The sinful human condition: *With a heart of stone (cf. Ezek. 36:26), we can’t and won’t “go and do likewise.”*
- b) The glorious gospel solution: *With a heart of flesh empowered by the Spirit we can and will.*

III. Truths

- A. The path to everlasting life is found only Christ—this is the gospel.
- B. The evidence of your eternal life is an unreserved love for God and others.