



Parables of Jesus—Compassion

The Good Samaritan

Who Is My Neighbor?

Jesus teaches in this passage that the law of love puts an end to legalism.

Introduction: A lawyer confronts Jesus about eternal life and gets an unexpected answer.

A. Jesus Tested: What must I do? :25-29

1. **What must I do to be saved?** That's the real question being asked.
2. The natural assumption of 'man' is that "I must have some human responsibility—something I do—to inherit eternal life."
3. **Who is my neighbor?** :29 Are some people NOT my neighbor?

B. The Lawyer Tested: Which of these...? :30-37

Jesus picks a Samaritan as the hero of this parable because he would have been a 'non-neighbor' in the lawyer's eyes.

The Parable :30-35

1. It was a 17-mile journey from Jerusalem to Jericho and the road was known for its danger. :30
2. Priests served in the temple and their highest duty was to offer sacrifices. :31
3. Levites assisted in the maintenance of the temple services and order. :32
4. Both the priest and the Levite represent self-righteousness—those who think their spirituality is above others. :31-32
5. Samaritan's were despised by the Jews. :33
6. The Samaritan's care for the hurt man was remarkable—it was **full of mercy** [compassion]. :33-35

Biblical Compassion: The idea of compassion or mercy looks back to the Mercy Seat [Ex 25:22] where the blood was applied to the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant and God's glory appeared there. The Hebrew word means to cover!

The Test :36-37

1. In typical Rabbinical style—Jesus finishes the parable without giving a conclusion and instead asks the lawyer for his conclusion. :36
2. Reversal of order: Jesus question in verse :36 reverses the question of the lawyer who asked, "Who is my neighbor?" The issue was never 'who is my neighbor' but 'who am I a neighbor to?'
3. The lawyer could not even bring himself to utter the word 'Samaritan.' Instead he simply says, "he who showed mercy."
4. We all should "Go and do likewise." :37

Luke 10:25-37

:25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and **tested** Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

:26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"

:27 So 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.'"

:28 And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

:29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

:30 Then 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.

:31 Now by chance a certain **priest** came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

:32 Likewise a **Levite**, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

:33 But a certain **Samaritan**, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, **he had compassion.**

:34 So 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.

:35 On 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.'

:36 So which of these three **do you think was neighbor** to him who fell among the thieves?"

:37 And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "**Go and do likewise.**"