

The Parables of Jesus #20
The Parable of the Good Samaritan
(Lk. 10:25-37)
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INTRODUCTION

- A. Have you ever wanted to ask the Lord the most important question that anyone could ask?**
1. "Lord, what would I have to do to live forever?"
 2. At least twice in the New Testament, Jesus was asked that question
 - a. by the "rich young ruler"
 - b. by the lawyer we meet in our study tonight from Lk 10
- B. It does not take a genius to understand why this question is so important**
1. We are all dying creatures
 2. This life we now possess is temporary, it won't last forever
 3. Life is the most precious thing we have, for without it, we have nothing
 4. Death is man's greatest enemy for it is the only enemy for which we have no solution
 5. Living beyond this current life, then, is a hope that lies solely in the hands of God
- C. Now, I have other questions for you**
1. If the Lord answered your question about obtaining eternal life, would you be satisfied?
 2. If you found out what it takes to obtain eternal life, would you apply that answer to your life -- would you do what Jesus said?
 3. What would you do if you didn't like his answer?
- D. Those are all questions with which we must come to terms in studying the parable of the good Samaritan -- Lk 10:25-37 (read)**

I. BACKGROUND TO THE PARABLE

A. This is another story where the surrounding event is important

1. The story of the good Samaritan was told in response to a question asked by a lawyer
2. It was designed as a test of Jesus

B. Lawyer's question 1

1. Luke 10:25 -- And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' (NKJ)
2. Though a test, it was a fair, straightforward question

C. Jesus's answer 1

1. Luke 10:26 -- He said to him, "'What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?' (NKJ)
2. This is the same way Jesus dealt with the rich young ruler -- referring him back to the Law of Moses under which he lived

D. Lawyer's response 1

1. Luke 10:27 -- 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.' " (NKJ)
2. The lawyer demonstrated a keen understanding of the foundation upon which all obedience to God's will is built
 - a. love for God
 - b. love for one's fellow man
3. Regardless of the dispensation of God under which one might live, this is the rule of thumb that covers the requirements

E. Jesus's response 1

1. Luke 10:28 -- And He said to him, "'You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.' (NKJ)
2. Notice Jesus let the man answer his own question

F. Lawyer's question 2

1. Luke 10:29 -- But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "'And who is my neighbor?' (NKJ)
2. Two things to note
 - a. he wanted to justify himself -- indicating he knew he had already failed the test
 - b. he couldn't ask who God was, so he had to focus on the debatable issue of who his neighbor was
3. Rather than continuing the discussion, Jesus answered with a story to illustrate the truth which the lawyer was avoiding

II. THE PARABLE

A. Story summary

1. A man travelled from Jerusalem to Jericho (about 20 miles or so)
 - a. a dangerous trip because the road was infested with robbers
 - b. it was called the "Way of Blood"
2. Robbers struck, taking everything, wounding the man and leaving him half dead on the side of the road
3. Two Jews come by, travelling the same road
 - a. one was a priest -- passed by on the other side so that he would not become unclean and lose his turn at serving God in the ceremonies of worship
 - b. one was a levite -- the priestly tribe - this was the tribe from among all the Jews that was called to serve their fellowman, but he just looked and passed by as well
4. Then a Samaritan came along the road
 - a. Samaritans were repulsive to the Jews because they were considered half-breeds
 - b. there was a hatred and animosity between Jew and Samaritan that was as bad as any
5. The Samaritan, however, behaved much differently than either the priest or the levite
 - a. he bandaged and medicated the man's wounds
 - b. he transported him to an inn
 - c. he took care of him the rest of that day
 - d. he paid the innkeeper to continue the care
 - e. he promised to repay the innkeeper if it cost more
6. The key to the Samaritan's behavior is found in Lk 10:33
 - a. he had compassion on the injured man
 - b. his compassion moved him to act on his behalf

B. Jesus's question 2

1. Luke 10:36 -- So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves? (NKJ)
2. This is not a question to which the lawyer wanted to respond
 - a. he was now on the spot, not Jesus
 - b. this whole episode had become reversed

C. Lawyer's response 2

1. Luke 10:37 -- And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." (NKJ)
2. Meaning the Samaritan!

D. Jesus's response 2

1. Luke 10:37 -- Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." (NKJ)
2. Do what?
 - a. this answers the question, "Who is my neighbor"
 - b. our neighbor is exactly what is stated in the Law of Moses -- other human beings, regardless of who they are or where they live
3. In summary, here's what Jesus told the Lawyer
 - a. do whatever it takes to love God
 - b. do whatever it takes to love other people

III. LESSONS TO LEARN

A. This story illustrates the power and importance of the many passages proclaiming man's need to love

1. Deut 6:5 -- You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (NKJ)
2. Deut 10:12 -- And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, (NKJ)
3. I Jn 4:20-21 -- If someone says, "'I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. (NKJ)
4. Matt 5:44-45 -- But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (NKJ)
5. John 13:34-35 -- A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (NKJ)

B. The fundamental power and importance of the two basic requirements

1. Love God -- when you do, you obey, worship, serve
2. Love others -- when you do, you serve with compassion, kindness

C. The solution to hatred, animosity and ill-will in the world is the attitude of the Samaritan

1. We will always have differences between us
 - a. political
 - b. economic
 - c. social
 - d. racial
 - e. national

2. Every one of those people who are different from us are our neighbor
 - a. Matt 5:46-47 -- For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? (NKJ)
 - b. this is the real test -- how do you treat people who are so different from you
3. Compassion is the key
 - a. if you do not feel for and with others, you will never express anything resembling love toward them
 - b. if all you do is label and distance yourself from others, you cannot love them

D. There is a great difference between one who loves God and his neighbor and one who is only interested in being religious

1. The priest and levite were religious, but they didn't obey the command to love their neighbor
2. There are many religious people who are far from God

CONCLUSION

A. Remember the questions I asked at the beginning of the lesson?

1. If the Lord answered your question about obtaining eternal life, would you be satisfied?
2. If you found out what it takes to obtain eternal life, would you apply that answer to your life -- would you do what Jesus said?
3. What would you do if you didn't like his answer?

B. Having studied the parable, how will you answer the questions?

1. Remember weeks ago when I said that the parables were the practical application of Jesus's teaching in the Sermon on the Mount?
2. This is a great example of what I meant

C. Will you be a neighbor?

1. The real question is not how you respond to people just like you, whom you already love and like
2. The real question is how you will act toward those who are different from you

D. Invitation