

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

Learning from the Parables & Practice of Jesus (Part 7)

The Good Samaritan *Luke 10:25-37*

v25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Eternal life" (*zoe aionion*) = "the life of the kingdom" = abundance continued forever

v26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

Scripture = the ultimate source of religious knowledge.

v27 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."

See Deut 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18

v28 And [Jesus] said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

- There is a difference between "right" (*orthos*) doctrine and "right" action
- Being "right" requires acting according to right beliefs

v29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

The only way we can ever justify ourselves is by limiting the law's demands and consequently our own responsibility.

v30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho,

The setting of the story points to:

- the vulnerability of all four persons.
- the likelihood that their actions on that road were true to their actual character
- the truth that God sees our actions when no one else does.

... when he fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.

- Attitude #1: People are targets to be used for personal profit.
- The Result: Stripped, beat up, and less-alive people.

v31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

- Attitude #2: People are problems to avoid.
- The Result: Ignored and abandoned people.

v32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

- Attitude #3: People are curiosities to observe.
- The Result: Isolated people.

v33 But a Samaritan while traveling came near him;

- The Racial Problem --
- The Religious Problem --

...and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.

- A response to need (HB-Hamal).
- An expression of love (HB-Raham).
- A turning point in life (GK-three different words).
 - *Eleos* = “mercy or unnecessary favor.”
 - *Oiktirmos* = “an exclamation of pain at the sight of another’s suffering.”
 - *Splanchnizomai* = “a movement of the heart and will”
- Attitude #4: People are precious lives to love. (Christ’s attitude toward us)
- The Result: Recovering people

v34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. v35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

- Learn to see the wounds: failure, guilt, fear, anger
- Pour out the healing balm: forgiveness, love, challenge
- Bandage the place of hurt: continued presence, letter of affirmation, arms of comfort, something to wrap up, preserve, and protect the place of wounding and healing.
- Take him to a place where the wounds can heal: counselor, planner, Christian fellowship
- Stay with him awhile. Don’t just refer -- remain.
- Be willing to pay the price to help provide for the renewal/recovery of another person

v36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

It is not who other people are that is the key question for each of us to answer. It’s who we are that counts in God’s eyes. God wants to know: Are you willing to be a neighbor?

v37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy."

Attitude #5: People are objects for our own personal spiritual advancement.

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. When was the last time you were moved with genuine pity?
2. Is there someone in your life right now, that is moving you that way?
3. Could God move you to be the Good Samaritan in response to those needs?
4. Could the person who needs compassion right now be YOU?
5. Have you accepted what Jesus came to do for you?
6. Are you cooperating with him in the healing process?