

FINDING THE GOOD WAY | LUKE 10:25-42 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 12/14/2025

*I. Jesus Redirects a Lawyer (25-37) | II. Jesus Redirects a Disciple (38-42)

INTRO: Jesus had just thanked the Father for saving those who had repented through the gospel, while others had hardened their hearts and refused the gospel (10:21-22) – *As He continues in Samaria*, Jesus encounters two addition circumstances where people need help **FINDING THE GOOD WAY.** *

I. JESUS REDIRECTS A LAWYER (25-37) – This story is unique to the gospel of Luke.

A. Good Questions Exchanged (25-29) – **READ:** This interaction was brought about by a *Certain Lawyer*, aka a **Scribe**, who was an **expert in Mosaic law**. – Luke tells us that this lawyer came to **TEST** Jesus! **{ekpeirazo}**, to prove thoroughly or put on trial, to trap, embarrass and discredit Jesus. – **He stood** to be seen and heard. – The religious leaders of Jesus' day were constantly trying to trap Jesus!

1. The First Exchange (25-27) – He hypocritically addressed Jesus (v.25) as **"Teacher" {didaskalos}**, a term of *respect* and *honor*, as he posed his first question: **"Teacher, WHAT shall I do to inherit eternal life?"** – It was a **GOOD QUESTION** asked with a **BAD MOTIVE!** – **In Scripture**, we find both **the RYR** (Luke 18:18-23) and **Nicodemus** (John 3:1-15) asking this same question!

a. **This is the Most Important Question Anyone Can Ask!** – When asked with **Sincerity**, the answer is easily found in Jesus Christ (*as with Nicodemus*). – When asked with a **Self-Righteous Attitude**... trusting in one's own **Works, Law**, or even **Possessions**... the answer becomes complicated (*as with the RYR*).

b. **His Question is Answered with Two Questions by Jesus (26)** – Notice that **He first directed Him** to **God's written Word**, as if to say, **"Go ahead, tell me what My Word says about this!"**

c. **The Lawyer Responded Immediately (27)** – As an expert, **he KNEW the LAW well** and therefore recited the most familiar scriptures in all Judaism (**Deut 6:5** and **Lev 19:18**) – These Scriptures along with others, (**Deut 11:13-21; Num 15:37-41**) were worn in **Phylacteries** (*tefillin*) by devout religious Jews, and were also contained in their **Mezuzah's**, which were affixed to the doorposts of homes.

- Notice that the word **LOVE** is **Emphasized** in both his scripture references: The verb **{Agapao}** signifies a higher, intentional, sacrificial love, an active choice of goodwill. – **To Love the Lord God** (27a) and to **Love your Neighbor** (27b). – Unfortunately, **this lawyer only knew the Letter of the Law and not the Spirit of the Law** (cf. 2 Cor 3:6; Gal 5:18).

- **His summary of the requirements was correct, but his Heart was not!** – He did not know that **LOVING GOD** with a **fourfold determination** was the same source for loving one's neighbor. – **The vertical affects the horizontal!** – **Love for God is demonstrated through love for people.**

P/A – **Knowing a passage requires more than just intellectual understanding;** It requires more than just wearing them on the exterior! – **It requires complete surrender to God... It requires our WHOLE BEING!...** Our **Heart, Soul, Strength** and **Mind**! – You may ask, **WHY? Because this is how He Loves You!** (cf. John 3:16; Rom 5:8). – In Jeremiah we read, **The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore, with lovingkindness I have drawn you."** (Jer 31:3)

2. The Second Exchange (28-29) ... *Begins with Jesus' response.* – He applauded the lawyer for his accurate answer, confirming the **Good Way**. He then commanded him, **"Do this, and you will live."**

a. **Jesus' simple command cut straight to the lawyer's cold heart.** – The lawyer knew that **he did not love God and man with a perfect love.** – In fact, **his intent to tempt and trap Jesus had backfired.**

b. **The lawyer must have realized** that he couldn't gain eternal life by following the law, so he **attempted to justify himself**. – This is why he **Sarcastically** asks the question, **“And who is my neighbor?”**

- His response was **an attempt to evade** his previous answer, implying that the Law does NOT necessarily demand us to love ALL men. *(a lawyer loophole)*
- At this point, **the man should have confessed his guilt rather than to justify himself!**

P/A – A Self-Righteous character is ugly! – **“The more I trust in my self-righteousness, seen by God as “filthy rags,” the more my sense of “deservedness” or “entitlement” will actually keep me from knowing Christ”.** – Randy Smith / The lawyer's question stimulated one of Jesus' greatest parables...

B. Good Samaritan Parable Presented (30-35) – **READ:** Worth noting is that **parables are meant to have a punchline, which communicates a certain truth.** – Here, **Jesus inserted this parable to address the sarcastic question of the lawyer who detested Gentiles and Samaritans** – **The parable serves as a CONTRAST between the lawyer to the Good Samaritan.** *(Notice the characters and their actions...)*

1. Certain Man (30) – He was the Victim, who was **robbed, beaten, stripped,** and **left for dead.** – Jesus included **the circumstances** of this helpless man to point out: **Will anyone come to his rescue?**

2. Certain Priest (31) – Probably returning from Temple duties, He was the first to encounter the injured man. – He saw him from afar and did not go near him but **passed by on the other side.** – **Of all people, a priest is supposed to love God** with all of his **Heart, Soul, Strength** and **Mind**, yet he showed **NO COMPASSION** to his fellow man! – **He did not want to be bothered.**

3. Certain Levite (32) – This second man was a temple worker. – He also frequented this dangerous road and came upon the wounded man. – But **his approach was merely inquisitive**, because he also **passed by on the other side.** – **He also was religious, but obviously calloused!** *Unwilling to help.*

POINT: Both religious men **SAW the helpless man and Passed by!** **WHY?** – Too busy, too prejudice, too inconvenient? – Whatever the reason... we can conclude that they were ON THE OTHER SIDE, i.e. the **WRONG SIDE** – **Their lack of concern violated the Law quoted earlier by the Lawyer** (Lev 19:18)

- (James 4:17) says, **To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.**

4. Certain Samaritan (33-35) – We see a totally different response from the third man. – He also came to the place where the suffering man was, and **he drew near to HELP!** – His help is defined as **COMPASSION {Splanchnizomai}**, which is the strongest Greek word that expresses **the deepest kind of pity and concern** for the sufferings or misfortunes of others. – *Several of his actions are highlighted...*

a. **His Aid (34)** – **He approached him** and **covered his wounds**, putting **oil to sooth the pain** and **wine to clean and disinfect.** – **He set him on his own animal**, demonstrating the **sacrifice of his own personal comfort.** – **He brought him to an inn** and **personally took care of him.** *(His own time)*

b. **He Paid (35)** – **He paid the innkeeper** **two days wages** and **made provision for the long term care** of the injured man, **willing to absorb any addition cost!** Wow... He cared enough to do something about it **Physically** and **Financially...**

c. **He Cared and He Shared!** – His actions revealed his **LOVE FOR HIS NEIGHBOR.** – In **(tt. Matt 25:37-40)** **Jesus acknowledges people** who act with such Compassion and Sacrifice towards others. – The **CONVICTING POINT** of this parable was the fact that this man was a SAMARITAN!

C. Good Response Evident (36-37) – **READ:** Jesus then tested the lawyer for the correct answer (36) – *Which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?*

- **To fail to choose the right answer at this point would** expose his religious hypocrisy. One thing for sure, **it certainly rebuked his sarcasm.**
1. **The Lawyer Answered Jesus Reluctantly (37a),** revealing his **EVIDENT hatred** of the Samaritans **by NOT naming him!** – He referred to him only as **“HE”, who showed mercy on him.**
 - He would **NEVER** consider a Samaritan **“his neighbor”** but **had no excuse now!** (*b/c He was guilty!*)
 2. **Since he was Forced to Answer Honestly,** Jesus then gave the lawyer **Two Commands (37b):**
 - **GO,** which is an imperative in the **present tense... NOW!**
 - **DO,** which is an imperative in the **present active... CONSTANTLY or CONTINUALLY!**
 3. **Jesus' response to the lawyer's query in (v.29) was REVERSED!** – This lawyer assumed that **Not everybody was his neighbor,** or that **others were to prove themselves** as loving neighbors. – But Jesus make it clear that **Loving your neighbor FIRST means to BE a Good Neighbor!** (Lev 19:13-18)
 - Jesus was trying to help the lawyer **Find The Good Way** or should I say, **The God Way!**
 - Hundreds of years prior **God spoke this SAME TRUTH** through the **Prophet Micah,** *He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)* – This lawyer needed help **Finding The Good Way!**

CLOSING THOUGHTS: The conclusion of this encounter teaches that **Theology, even when correct... is USELESS** without proper action! **(John 13:17)** *“If you know these things, blessed are you if you DO them.”*

As Jesus redirected a lawyer with Love and Duty, He now moves on to minister to a Distracted Disciple...

II. JESUS REDIRECTS A DISCIPLE (38-42) – **READ:** As Jesus journeyed southward, (John 11:1) confirms that **this village is Bethany,** which is about **2 miles Northeast of Jerusalem.** – He came to the home of **Martha, Mary, and Lazarus,** a family of disciples whom Jesus truly loved. – It is believed that **Martha is the oldest** because she is mentioned first, and the homeowner, **“Her house” (38).** *It begins with...*

A. GOOD INTENTIONS (38,40-42) – **We find another contrast here.** – Not between a **Lawyer and a Samaritan,** but that of two sisters, **Martha and Mary.** – In this passage, one is labeled a **Worshipper** and the other a **Worrier!** – *Though their mention is intertwined, let's focus on their actions separately...*

1. Martha's Invitation (38) – **Martha's focus** began by honoring Jesus and His disciples, *inviting them into her home for rest and fellowship.* – **To welcome Jesus into your home is an act of worship!** – (v.39a) informs us that **MARTHA** and **her little sister Mary sat at Jesus' feet,** perhaps asking questions. (*Imagine, attending a home fellowship where Jesus was teaching!*) – **But what started as WORSHIP in her heart,** soon became **WORRY in her mind!** (*Do I have enough Water? Olives...I forgot the olives!*)

2. Martha's Distraction (40) – The word **DISTRACTED {perispao}** means **to be driven about,** with the idea of **anxious frustration** mentally and emotionally. – In particular **her concern was about serving supper for 16!** Jesus, the twelve, and her family. – **At one point Martha began to RESENT the EASE of her sister Mary who was worshipping as she WORKED!**

- a. One of the **common temptations** sincere believers fall for, is **to become Overly Concerned** with **what WE are doing and forget WHY we do it!** – As the hostess, **she was just too busy** to enjoy what was going on herself! (*Have you ever found yourself frustrated at a ministry event?*)

b. **Martha's frustration became an Episode! (40b)** – She interrupted the teaching time by drawing attention to herself. – **It appears that she speaks to Jesus disrespectfully!**

- In front of everyone she **complained to the Lord** saying... *"Lord, do you not care!"*
- Furthermore, Martha takes it upon herself to give Jesus orders, *"Tell her to HELP me!"*

P/A: Martha's Actions Teach Us the **WRONG WAY** to serve Jesus in ministry! – **1)** Martha attached too much importance to what SHE was DOING for Jesus. **2)** The moment she allowed her **SERVICE** to take center stage; **PEACE** left her.. and **FRUSTRATION** pulled her apart! – Martha needed help Finding The Good Way... she actually needed Divine Intervention!

3. Martha's Admonition (41-42) – I can picture Jesus Teaching, then suddenly Pausing and Wondering at her. – **With compassion Jesus said,** *"Martha, Martha you are worried and troubled about many things"*

- a. He Reproved Martha gently for **her obsession over things that are NOT AS IMPORTANT.** – Even though He truly appreciated her **GOOD INTENTIONS** and everything that she was doing, **Jesus MADE CLEAR that her service at that time was NOT the highest priority!**
- b. He Redirected Martha to the ONE THING that mattered most...WORSHIP! (42) – *Worship is the One Thing NEEDED, in contrast to the many things* disturbing Martha! – Jesus goes on to say that her sister Mary had FOUND THE GOOD WAY. – Evidently she had **CHOSEN that...**

B. Good Part (39,42) – Way back in (v.39), we learned that **Mary Sat and Stayed at Jesus feet to Worship Him!** – Luke makes it very clear that **Mary CHOSE to REMAIN at Jesus' feet and hear His Word.** – Totally Focused... without distraction!

1. Mary's Devotion (39) – *Mary of Bethany is mentioned three times in scripture.* – And on each occasion, **we find her at the same place: AT THE FEET OF JESUS!** – Here (10:39), we find her at His feet, listening to His Word. – In (John 11:32), she fell at His feet, in sorrow. – And in (John 12:3) we again find her at Jesus' feet, worshipping Jesus, anointing His feet with costly oil. *(It's Her Lifestyle)*

2. Mary's Decision (42) – Within ministry there are many things to DO, but Jesus says that *Mary had chosen that good part, and she refused to stop! "it will not be taken away from her."*

- **Ministry to the Lord is THE BEST THING we can do.**
- **PRAYING and FASTING is considered ministering to the Lord (cf. Acts 13:2)**

– **P/A:** As disciples, we too must learn to sit and hear God's Word, without distraction. Drinking in His Word, loving Him, and fellowshiping with Him. – **It's a discipline... IT'S A BLESSING!**

- To sit at the feet of Jesus implies **Readiness** to receive His will for my life.
- To sit at the feet of Jesus implies **Submission to Jesus**; selfish ambitions are put away.
- To sit at the feet of Jesus implies **Faith** in who Jesus IS!
- To sit at the feet of Jesus implies **Discipleship**, to accept and obey what Jesus teaches.
- To sit at the feet of Jesus implies **Love**, expressing our hearts desire before Him in worship. –

Are you a Worshipper or a Worrier!

– Make sure you spend time with Him in Worship and Devotion; Not only will they help you **FIND THE GOOD WAY**, but it will help you to **ENJOY SERVING the Lord** and help eliminate frustration in LIFE!

(Psalm 27:4) *One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.*