

The Journey
Week 6

Parable of the Good Samaritan:

Who Are the Samaritans?

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind^[a]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[b]”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

- **Jesus is saying to the lawyer: How much do you love yourself?**

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself he wanted to show Jesus he was right with God, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

- **Another way to actually ask this question is, “So, who do I not have to love.”**

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem this man was probably a Jew because he was coming from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

Who is the Priest?

³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

So who is a Levite?

³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii^[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

It took someone who was not a Christian to do what the Christ followers should have done.

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

There is no one who truly has the heart of Christ who can stand idly by a suffering neighbor, and do nothing to help them.