

Misunderstood and Misused Outline

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

- I. Misunderstood and misused.
 - A. Most people believe the Good Samaritan is a parable about being nice to the downtrodden.
 - B. The parable has been used to promote agendas in social justice issues.
- II. Context.
 - A. The seventy appointed disciples returned from their first mission trip: Excited!
 1. Jesus reminds them they should be excited for their salvation resulting in eternity in heaven more than their special powers to do miracles. A hint as to the prime message of their upcoming parable: Salvation
 - B. A lawyer presses into Jesus a question.
 1. Lawyer—an expert on the Old Testament Law.
 2. The lawyer is testing Jesus as to his knowledge of the Law and salvation.
 - C. The question: *What shall I do to inherit salvation?*
 1. This is not a sincere question, it is to “trap” Jesus into saying something wrong.
 2. Jesus recognizes the trap and answers the question with a question: *How do you read the Law?*
 3. The Lawyer responds brilliantly quoting Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (the Shema) and Leviticus 19:18. Both make up the essence of the entirety of God’s Laws.
 - D. The Law
 1. The problem with the Law: the four “Alls”—heart, soul, strength and mind. Nobody is capable of keeping the Law perfectly (All).
 - a. That’s the point Jesus is making to the Lawyer!
 2. The three functions of the Law.
 - a. The Law is a mirror.

- b. The Law restrains evil.
 - c. The Law reveals to us what is pleasing to God.
 - 3. Something to remember: ***We can not initiate love toward God, we can only respond*** 1 John 4:19.
 - a. (Vs. 21-22) *A bolt out of the Johanine blue*— We can only know God and Jesus if Jesus reveals them to us (including His love).
- E. The neighbor (the parable).
 - A. The injured man
 - B. The priest and the Levite—Religious “good” people.
 - 1. They are us! In condemning them we condemn ourselves.
 - C. The “Good Samaritan”—to the Jew, an oxymoron! There were no “good” Samaritans.
 - 1. ***He bore the injured man’s burden as if it were his own!***
 - 2. He “lavishly” took care of the man.
 - 3. Jesus is describing a love with no limits.
 - D. The lesson.
 - 1. The Law cannot give you eternal life—We must love our neighbor as the Samaritan loved his neighbor.
 - 2. *Who is my neighbor?* Jesus turn the question around, eliminating the injured man as a choice for the answer.
 - a. The neighbor was the Samaritan.
 - b. “go and do likewise” or, “go and uphold every letter of the law”
- F. Who we are dictates what we do.
 - A. It’s not enough just to see a need—you must do something!
 - B. What you do depends on what you see.
 - C. What you see and what you do are dependent on who you are.

Misunderstood and Misused Pastoral Notes

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

Read Luke 10:25-37

The Good Samaritan... we all know the Good Samaritan... at least we are all familiar with the story.... but I'm not sure we are all familiar with the *main* point of the story...

It's a parable... Jesus used parables as His most direct connection revealing truth to His disciples and at the same time hiding it from His rejecters... Remember that tensions between Jesus and the religious leaders was elevating....

The Pharisees, the scribes were threatened by Jesus's growing popularity... They wanted Him out!... Jesus realizing they would attempt to trap him in saying something that could lead to arrest or worse... He began speaking only to those "**who had ears to hear**"... ears that God opened to the truth.... So He veiled His speaking by employing parables.

Most people believe this a story primarily about being kind to others... in fact... today... you will hear various relief organizations refer to the Good Samaritan to convince people to get involved with their organization....

Samaritans Purse....where do you suppose they got that name?... and how about right next door... until recently it was owned by the *Good Samaritan Society*....their entire organization was built upon a principle gleaned from the parable....

Today... the story has been very popular defending the church's interest...or guilting the lack of interest in social justice... this week I saw references to the Good Samaritan in Marxist and Socialistic writings...

The Sojourners organization right here in Moscow use the parable in their publications... *You only have so many days to embrace someone to tell him how you feel...forty-seven million in our country are on food stamps and benefits are decreasing...we need to reflect on Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan....*

For most people... The Good Samaritan is about helping people who have less than we do...back in the presidential primaries one candidate said *Getting to know people on the other side of the road so as to tear down the walls between us is essential...*

Jim Wallace... founder of Sojourners Magazine...who was. a spiritual advisor to President Obama... just published a book called *The False White Gospel*... laments that the parable doesn't go far enough...he said *it is too open ended... the Good Samaritan needed to go further than just stop and take care of the poor beaten man... he needed to dig into and find the root of the social problem...that caused the robbers to rob and beat the man...*

He wrote... *What would happen if the Good Samaritan went down the road DAILY and began to critique the political and economic agendas of those in power in that area?... We need to dig out the root causes of injustice that made the man steal..... May we create a world where in 500 years...Sunday School classes are bewildered by this story... because violence never happens and Good Samaritans are needed no more...*

There's a thought!... but in 500 years... IF THE WORLD IS STILL HERE.... we will still desperately need this parable... because it's **main** message isn't about any of that!... it's extremely Christ like to desire and help others who are in need... it's a wonderful idea for the world to become so compassionate and caring that all people who are in great need would be taken care of....

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT..... it's even more important than that!...yes... the story shows us about kindness to strangers... but Jesus told this story to show us how far we all really fall short of what God demands of His people.... all of us!.... How short we all come to merit any favor and religious merit with God.

The point of the parable starts to become clear when we begin with the immediate context of why the parable was told in the first place.... Jesus had expanded His disciples from 12 to 70 more to carry out His mission of spreading His message...

They go out on their first mission in Luke chapter ten...when they returned... they were all excited over all the things they were able to do...through the power of the Holy Spirit...they were healing the sick.... casting out demons...their excitement was so great that they were able to even cast out demons that Jesus reminded them that **their excitement should be over their eternal life in heaven...** not in their power over demons.

It's interesting that this is the only place in scripture where it is recorded that Jesus was joyful...verse 21.... He was joyful over the fact that God's sovereign plan was actually taking place... and He was such a part of it... so... while Jesus is speaking to His disciples and followers...

Read Verse 25

Behold!...has two possible meanings... **Behold** as in *Surprise an angel from the Lord!*.. or **Behold** as in "pay attention"... this one is "*Pay attention to this...*"

This legal expert... was one of the growing numbers of hostile religious leaders... he wasn't a civil lawyer... he was a religious leader who lived protecting and promoting God's laws... he's hearing and seeing Jesus and what's going on with His new disciples and he's getting concerned....He's a master of God's Law... and here's this man... Jesus talking as if HE HAS AUTHORITY.

So he throws out a question to Jesus as a test.... **Teacher.... what shall I do to inherit eternal life?...**the question is not asked to earnestly learn anything... it is a test.

He's trying to trap Jesus... he's trying to catch Jesus in violating God's laws.... so he throws this question out at Him that as far as he knew.... had no clear answer.... he wants to embarrass Jesus in front of the crowd... he wants to discredit Him... and he wants to flaunt his superior skill as a legal expert....

His question... even though it is designed as a trap is a very good question.... it is one everyone should ask.... it is the most important question one can ask!.... several others have asked Jesus the very same question.... the rich young ruler... Nicodemus.... **what shall I do to inherit eternal life?...**

Right there tells us something about the true meaning of this parable... it is not all about being nice to the downtrodden... this is a parable about one's salvation...make note of this.... All of the parables of Jesus are about salvation in some form...all of them... **what shall I do to inherit eternal life?...**

The lawyer thought that Jesus would blow the answer... he thought He might say something like.... *oh...you can live any way you like just be good... God accepts everyone... God loves everyone...* that thinking is a direct violation of the Old Testament legal system!

Jesus recognizes the trap... we can learn something from the way Jesus handles this....Jesus teaches us all something very important about what to do when someone is trying to trap you with a penetrating question.... this is good... it really works... **WHEN SOMEONE IS TRYING TO TRAP YOU WITH A QUESTION... ALWAYS ANSWER WITH ANOTHER QUESTION!**

Somebody asked a rabbi *Why do Jews always answer a question with a question?..... "Why not?"*

Works ALMOST every time!.... well... Jesus comes back at him with another question....

Read Verse 26

When Jesus asks **how does it read to you?...** he is asking the lawyer to NOT get out all 700 volumes of the Jewish law.... not get out the Torah... but *please just give me a summery.... how do you summarize the entire law?...how do you read it?....*

This guy is very sharp...he didn't invent an answer for the summery... he pulled out the most familiar summery of the entire law that had been written over 1400 years before in the Book of Deuteronomy 6:4-5....called the *Keri'at Shema*.... we know it as the Shema.....devout Jews read this daily:

Hear O' Israel... The Lord our God... the Lord is one... you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind...

I cannot read that without doing a spiritual checkup on myself!... think about this... loving God with every fiber that makes up you... there is one God and you owe Him everything!...

the attorney added the last part of Leviticus 19:18 as well....

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Let's stop there.... think about that.... what does that mean?... it is a great summery of the entire law given by God... you see... the Pharisees were good about *showing* their love for God... by keeping His laws.... at least showing Him they were keeping them.... as if God couldn't see them behind closed doors!

An Archbishop in the Anglican church back in the 1920's 40's William Temple wrote something very penetrating in reference to the Shema.... he said *Your [true] religion is what you do in your solitude... your true religion is where your mind goes to when you have nothing to look at.... nothing to listen to... nothing to do.... when your mind is completely unstimulated by ANY outside influence.... when you're not forced to think of anything..... WHERE DOES YOUR MIND GO?*

(do you even ever have times like that?)

Where does your mind go instinctively?... where does it love to dwell?.... when it is completely free to go where it wants to go... where does it go?....Is it God?.... William Temple says that what that thing is that your mind DOES go to is your true religion.... that's your ultimate love and concern!.... and see... the law says... **love your God with all your heart soul and body**....

Read verse 27 (again)

This is the first test of the law!.... Love God so much that He dominates your solitude... love God so much that you are content in any circumstances.... because you truly have what you want most.... HIM!.... *how are you doing on that test?....not so good?....*

The problem with the Shema is that there are too many "Alls" in that verse.... ALL your heart... ALL your soul...ALL your strength and ALL your mind...we can't do it!... we may strive to do it.... we may be moving in the right direction.... But we will never arrive... we're all sinners.

He can't do it!... that's the point!... that's what Jesus is getting at! ...The second test of the law is... **love your neighbor as yourself**.... Jesus was happy with the lawyers answer....

Read verse 28...

Do this and you will live?... (Oh...that's easy!)...Keep that law perfectly (ALL)....that's all you have to do... and you will have eternal life... sounds like salvation by works!... but no!... The lawyer it says in verse 29 **wishing to justify himself...**

In light of that great summery of all of God's law... he wants to show that he is keeping that law perfectly... that's why it is just a "wish"!... the Law never saved anyone... the Law is simply a teacher... teaching us why we need Jesus.

There are three function so f the Law...

1. It is a mirror—on the one hand it is a perfect reflection of the perfect righteousness of God.... The law tells us much who God is... but it also shows us how we fall short of His righteousness... the law reflects how sinful we truly are... are far from God's righteousness we are.

The law reveals to us that we can't ever live up to that righteousness.... We need grace... the grace that only Jesus can give.

2. The law restrains evil—The law in itself cannot change the human heart... but it can protect the righteous from the unjust... the law allows for justice on earth...

3. It reveals to us what is pleasing to God—we delight in the Law (as the Psalmist says) because we know that in them we see what pleases God.

What the law was doing here was being a mirror for this Lawyer... Jesus is showing Him that he thinks there is salvation in keeping the law... well... you can't keep the law!...

Romans 3:20....**By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight...for by the law is knowledge of sin".....** It says he's trying to justify himself.... *I love God with all my heart, soul, strength and mind!*... here's something that is so important....

We need to remember this... **We never initiate love for God... all we can do is respond to Him...** (repeat).... In other words... you can't on your own decide to love God with all your heart... all you can do is respond to His great love for you.... We can only love in response to trusting in His great love for us!

1st John 4:19... **We love BECAUSE He first loved us...**Not we love because we decided to love Him... we can only respond to His great love for us....quickly... move up again to verse 21... where Jesus is joyful...

At that time He greatly rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said... and then what He says is (Also found in Matthew 11:27...known as *A bolt out of the Johanine blue*...a very old saying *A bolt out of the blue* is the idea of a perfectly blue sky, then a lightening bolt COMES OUT OF THE BLUE.

A bolt out of the Johanine blue....Johanine is saying this verse sounds like something John would have written.... And it comes completely out of the blue... what was it?

Read verses 21-22

In other words...when it comes to God's love.... We can only know it if Jesus reveals it to us... and ONLY if He reveals it to us can we respond to it!....ALL THIS TO SAY ...Nobody.... Us included... can decide to love God with all out hearts, souls, strength and minds...without Jesus revealing His love to us....the lawyer cannot decide to love God with all his heart!...*so he cannot justify himself!*

but here... Jesus just told the lawyer.... *go out... and love your neighbor as you love yourself!*... and you will have eternal life....that's a deed from the law of God!...so what's going on?

It's really brilliant... what Jesus is doing is playing into the lawyers game... it's like Jesus held up a mirror to the man of the law and said *you are the law expert.... how's that law playing out in your life?*...

How's that love God with ALL your heart working out?

Way back in the 1500's...Prior to putting together salvation is by grace through faith....Martin Luther strived to keep every bit of the Law.... And it was killing him!... Martin Luther was asked *Do you love God?*... he answered *Sometimes I hate Him!!!...why?*... Because Luther was striving to live by the law... and he couldn't do it!... it angered him so greatly that he threw the blame onto God for having the law in the first place!

Luther... like the lawyer...

The law became his mirror!.... and as he looked into the mirror.... he saw a man who couldn't live up to the very law he has given his life to!..... he should have been broken... he knew deep inside he hadn't been loving God to the extent of the law....

He would have known that those times when his mind was free to go where it wanted it didn't go over to God... it went over to hunting for elk... or golf...his girlfriend.... he should have been humbled at what Jesus just showed him!

Instead... it says *he tried to save face*....

Read Verse 29

Is it the guy next door?... is it the people on my street?... is it my community?

See... he's concerned... *love your neighbor as you love yourself.... I so much want to be righteous!*.... I'm kind of surprised he glossed right over the **love your God with all your heart**.... he's very concerned with.... *love your neighbor as you love yourself!*... I would think he's be more worried with that!

Somebody said *how you love God is reflected in how you love your neighbor.... So look at your love for your neighbor and it will reveal the love you have for God...* also think about this... ½ of the Ten Commandments are about your relationship with God... the other half are about your relationship with others.

I think he's looking for a technicality he can squeeze by... *so... what do you say a neighbor is Jesus...* you see... by now... the rabbis had twisted the original law that was in Leviticus 19:18... Matthew records Jesus addressing that..... listen to this:

Matthew 5:43 **You have heard it said *You shall love your neighbor... but hate your enemy....*** that was what the Jewish leaders had done to Leviticus!.... and this guy is thinking... maybe I can love my neighbor as long as Jesus' definition follows our new rabbinic tradition....

I can love people I like.... but enemies?.... That frees me up!... in fact.... if I don't want to love someone... I can deem them as my enemy!....I am under no moral obligation to love anyone!.... so to Jesus.... what is Your definition of a neighbor?

Jesus shows the man gentle compassion...Jesus is being evangelistic here... Jesus is modeling to this man the very lesson He had been teaching..... ***to love your enemies!***... so He tells him a made up story of the Good Samaritan..... He has one very important point to make to the lawyer...

Read verse 30

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho is a very dangerous road.... the road is still there today... it is a journey of about seventeen miles.... it is steep.... about a four-thousand foot drop in elevation... very rough terrain... the route is lined with caves and crevices where robbers and thieves would hide in.

A Jewish man is traveling alone on this road... and he is accosted by thieves... brutal thieves... and they strip him... brutally beat him and take EVERYTHING he owns... leaves him to die on the desert road..... he's ½ dead... but fortunately he's ½ alive!

(verse 31a) and a priest *happened to be going down that road...* (that's what my Bible says...happened... yours probably says **by chance...**[explain]

A servant of God!... he represented the best of men!.... a priest!.... one who would certainly know not just the Shema but Leviticus 19:18 as well!... the real one!... **you shall love your neighbor as yourself!**

In fact.... he would certainly know the verses further down in Leviticus 19.... **if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him. The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you... you shall love him as yourself.**

He's know Proverbs 21:13 **whoever shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself but not be heard... BUT!**

Read verses 31-32

This Levite... this religious man... did the very same thing the Priest had done... walked on by... by the way demonstrating that they had no idea how to live out the Shema.... they didn't love God with all their heart, mind and body...because if you loved God... you would keep His commandments!

Here's the thing... we look at these two passer byers... and we can be very critical of them...but they are us!... I know I'm like them...I know a lot of verses.... I've read the Bible many times.... I know something about what is in these pages....

and I've turned my head away from MANY people in need..... oh.... I've helped some...there are some that I've really done a fine job of helping...GOOD DAN! but if I'm running late...or if I'm not wanting to be bothered..... it is so easy to faint a distraction and turn my head away!....

It is so much more likely I will help if it happens during my office hours....I'm so pathetic that I've spent 2 hours helping someone in need who came to my office... and 30 minutes later... on my way to lunch...turn my head intentionally to someone else in need!

We are getting warm to the point!... most people at this point in the story are disgusted with the priest and Levite... Are you disgusted with them?...they are deemed as pathetic inhuman scum.... if that is where you leave this story...you miss the point.

Yes... we should condemn the two religious men!...but in doing so... we condemn ourselves!...*we don't want to get involved...every time.... we are scared to get involved... the thieves might be watching!*... if we do it sometimes.... we fail at other times.

Read Verse 33

It was very rare for a Samaritan to be on that road...they would only travel on that road if it was an emergency.... they avoided that road because they were absolutely despised by Jews..... and they returned the favor... they despised the Jews...the heading in my Bible says "*The Good Samaritan*" ... to the Jew that is an oxymoron!.... A Samaritan is anything but "good"!

The two people hated each other... That road that went from Jerusalem to Jericho was not the shortest and most direct route.... there was another road that was much shorter... it went through Samaria.... [remember this is a made up story!]

The Jews considered Samaritans unclean... you may not have known that the Samaritans were descendants of the Israelites... their descendants intermarried with pagans back when Israel went into exile.... you can read all about it in 2nd Kings 17.

These Samaritans had kept some of the Old Testament traditions... and doctrines... they believed in God... take a look at the book of Ezra.... the Samaritans wanted to team up with the Jews to rebuild the Jerusalem temple.... the Jews had so much contempt for them they chased them off...

They became an enemy of the Jews.... tried to halt the rebuilding of the temple and later the wall of Jerusalem...the Samaritans ultimately built their own temple on Mt Gerizim.... a lot of bad history between the two peoples... and yet... here is this Samaritan... full of compassion for this beaten Jewish man lying on the road!

Now remember.... Jesus is answering a question with this story.... what was He getting at?...notice how the Samaritan loves... he actually takes care of the Jewish man as if it was himself! (*love thy neighbor..... as thyself!*) **he bore the injured man's burden as if it were his own!**

Read Verse 34

Remember.... everything of value had been taken from the man... so everything the Samaritan used was his own!... he bandaged up his wounds with his own bandages.... probably his own clothes!.... he got out his own oil to sooth the man's sores..... he pulled out his own jug of wine as an antiseptic... to sanitize the wounds....

These were the Samaritan's provisions... he needed the oil for his cooking... and his wine for drinking in that the water was not drinkable... and he wasn't being stingy with all this... he didn't get out an eyedropper and count out five drops of wine... he poured the oil and the wine....

Jesus went out of the way to point out the generosity and the lavishness of the Samaritan toward this "enemy"... he puts him on HIS OWN ANIMAL.... meaning he would walk... this isn't minimal care... he's not holding ANYTHING back!

Took him to an inn.... and took care of him!... he didn't drop him off and said *hope it all works out for you!*.... no... he spent the night with him.... his time!...

Read verse 35

Two denari.... that was two days wages... at that time... that would have paid for two months lodging... two months!.... incredible charity!.... this isn't just being nice to your neighbor!... He even offers to come back and pay the innkeeper any additional expenses that might occur during the man's stay!

Now... add this all up....

The Samaritan never had met this man...

They were known to be enemies....

He set EVERYTHING aside for this stranger....

He risked defilement in order to minister to his needs.... social criticism and even being ostracized!

Dressed his wounds with his own provisions.... gave him his time... paid his bills... medical care and food.... left him with a blank check to pay for anything else he might need!

Have you ever done that for anyone?..... there is someone you have done that for..... YOURSELF!.....

but for a stranger?.... an enemy of yours?... we've all done nice things to strangers on some rare occasions.... but like this ALL THE TIME?..... OF COURSE NOT!

The Good Samaritan is describing something we can't do!..... we all fall short of it somewhere!...we might do part of it... on occasion we might be very sacrificial and generous.... but we won't and can't do it always!.....**JESUS IS DESCRIBING A RARE LOVE THAT HAS NO LIMITS!...** a limitless love!

Remember the question?.... *WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?...* HERE'S HOW Jesus answered.... *what does the law say?*

Love your neighbor as yourself...

You have answered rightly DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE!

The problem?.... *but you can't do it!*

The parable of the Good Samaritan is to show what an impossible standard the law sets.... and Jesus isn't just rebuking the lawyer... He's rebuking all of us!... the law of God is what God requires of us.... to fall short of the law... is to fall short of God... and all of us will fall short...

All of us will NOT love God with ALL your heart.... mind and strength..... and we will all fail at loving our neighbor's as ourselves especially when your enemy is your neighbor!... we all fall short....

What happens next is so interesting... Jesus throws a question back at the lawyer.....remember how Jews answer questions?.... remember the Lawyer's second question?... *who is my neighbor?*

Jesus turns the question around... ever notice this?... *who is my neighbor?*... so Jesus now asks another question for the answer....

Read verse 36

Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers hand... Jesus removed the injured man from the possible list for neighbor!... and by doing so... Jesus presses the answer to point to the Lawyer....

Social activist say the injured man is our neighbor we must solve the crises of the poor being abused by the wealthy and religious...

There's only one answer for the lawyer...

Read verse 37

The law requires perfection ALL the time.... Deuteronomy 27:26... **Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law...**

James 2:10 **Whoever shall keep the whole law and yet stumble in one point....he is guilty of all...**

When Jesus said..... *“go and do likewise..... or.... go and uphold every letter of the law”*that man should have gotten on his knees and proclaimed to Jesus *I can't do it!*... he should have pleaded for grace and forgiveness!

We have no hope under the law!... the only thing the law can do for us is condemn us!... all it can do is show us just how weak... incapable and puny we really are!... something even bigger here...

The way the Good Samaritan cared for the beaten traveler..... is precisely how God cares for and loves sinners!.... but even greater..... The Samaritan sacrificed all that he possessed..... his time... money...provisions... God gave His own Son to die on the cross for sinners.... who each deserved eternal damnation!

This has been about the relationship of the law to our salvation... but what about us who claim the salvation of Jesus Christ?... how do you... we who make that claim respond to the Good Samaritan?

Who we are dictates what we do... if you are in Christ... what you do will reflect the Christ in you.

Many years ago a seminary professor gave us some things to ponder when we were studying this parable of the Good Samaritan... I want to pass these on to you...three concluding points for Christians...A Good Samaritan check up:

1. It's not enough just to see a need—you must do something! Both the priest and the Levite “saw” the man with great needs....I marvel at the hardness of my heart...[that's what Jesus is pointing out!].... It was Sunday morning in winter... I was on my way here to preach!...

I saw a car slide off the road in front of me... I saw it!... It was 5:30 in the morning...dark...a rural road... I did not want to give up my quiet time before preaching!...so I just drove on by... *surely someone will come along and help.*

It's not enough just to see a need—you must do something

2. What you do depends on what you see—In other words... you have to see... you have to have your eyes open...you have to be looking...The Good Samaritan had his eyes open... he saw the man... what he did was dependent upon seeing the need...which brings us to the main point.

3. What you see and what you do is dependent upon who you are—Who was the neighbor? It was the Samaritan because HE SAW A NEIGHBOR.... He knew HE WAS A NEIGHBOR....

When it comes to God we respond

When it comes to your neighbor.... We initiate love.

Why and how?... because that's who we are!

A farmer is a farmer and what does he talk about?... farming...*those are some good lookiin Garbanzo Beans!*

Many years ago I was in the flooring business... a flooring guy only sees flooring!... I would go to someone's house and say *That's nice carpet!... Shaw #3019 Arabesque*...I couldn't go into a restaurant without look at the floor... *Those are Saltillo Tiles from Tecate Mexico!*... why?... that's who I was!

The old professor illustrated this with a very old children's nursery rhyme:

Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been?

I've been to London to see the Queen

Pussy cat, pussy cat, what saw you there?

I saw a mouse under the chair Why?

That's what cats see!.... it is not in the nature of cats to see a Queen in all her regalia... it is the nature of cats to see mice.

Jesus is showing us here.... That this Good Samaritan Saw... he responded... he acted... because of who is was... We don't know how the Lawyer responded... that was not Jesus' point...but I'm certain Jesus was showing him who he really was!

If you have Christ... the way you see... the way you respond... will reflect WHO YOU ARE IN HIM

Read Romans 5:6-8