

## The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

### Introduction:

#### 1. Series Intro:

- Parables: A earthly story with a Heavenly meaning. Each story contains Biblical truth. Jesus taught using over 40 parables. He was a master at taking material things in this world to teach us about God and about the kingdom of God.
- The goal of this series is to teach us about God and the kingdom of God.

#### 2. **Luke 10:25-37** Commentary

##### **I. The recipients of our compassion**

1. The Samaritan and the Jew had absolutely nothing in common. In fact, this was racism. They hated each other because of their race. Jews hated Samaritans because they were half breeds. Jews felt that they were better than the Samaritans. Samaritans were no better. They were known for robbing the Jews. The point is that they did not like each other, associate with one another, marry one another, help one another, or befriend one another.
2. The natural and easy thing for us is to show compassion on those who are just like us. Why? Because we understand them.
3. Jesus was teaching that we need to help not only those who we have things in common with, but those who we have nothing in common with.

- Show compassion to the person you barely know
  - Show compassion to the one who made a mess of their lives
  - Show compassion to those on the other side of the political aisle as you
  - Show compassion to different races
4. The point of this parable is that the one who showed compassion to the Jew was the one who was the most unlikely to ever show compassion to the Jew. Jesus was trying to teach us something about how we interact, relate, and live with people that are different than us.

##### **II. The degree of our compassion**

1. The Priest and the Levite were busy doing God's work. They did not have time for actual ministry. They had speaking engagements, meetings to attend, and did not have time to be inconvenienced to help someone on the side of the road.
2. **Christians come up with all kinds of excuses for why we don't show compassion to those in need.**
  - They brought this trouble on themselves
  - They really don't need my help, they are faking
  - I don't have time to help
  - I don't have the money to help
  - I feel uncomfortable helping

3. The Samaritan man was inconvenienced, he was uncomfortable, he gave of his money, and he went the extra mile to help the Jew in need.
4. Here is a principle that I was taught many years ago - **You can't outgive God!** Most of the time we give but most of us don't give enough to where it hurts, inconveniences us, or makes us uncomfortable.

### III. The reason for our compassion

1. This is where Jesus turns the lawyer and his audience's mind on their head. The plot twist of the entire story is this: **why have a Samaritan be the hero of the story?** Why not tell the story in a way where the lawyer could identify himself with the Samaritan a bit? After the priest and the levite, why not have a really good Jewish man help the Jew out?
2. **Instead, Jesus made the hero of the story be a character that could not be more different than everyone in his audience.**
3. Here is why: What if the person you and I need to identify with the most in this story is not the Samaritan, the priest, or the Levite, but the man bleeding on the side of the road.
4. What if the hero of your story was someone who was much different than you, who had every reason to hate you, to leave you dead on the side of the road, and be our enemy?
5. The Bible says that we were born into this world dead in our sins. We were spiritually dead. **I don't particularly like the illustration**

**of the Gospel where you hear of us drowning out in the sea and Jesus throws the life preserver of Salvation out to us.** You weren't drowning, you were completely dead at the bottom of the sea. But God! God sent Jesus who had nothing in common with us (He was perfectly holy, and we were terribly sinful). We were enemies of Him. We rejected Him. We caused Him shame. Our sin crucified Him. He had every right to leave you and I dead on the side of the road, but Jesus showed compassion to us by loving us in our sin and giving us a new life.

6. When you understand what Jesus did for you, it makes loving someone when different than you make perfect sense.
7. Those who have experienced the Gospel at work in their lives will be compelled to go and do likewise to those around us, because that is what Jesus has done for us.

Conclusion:

1. **The Question: Luke 10:36 - Which now of these three, thinkest thou was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?**
2. **God's response** - Go and do likewise. Be the Samaritan!
3. Illus: You never know what hangs in the balance of your response to this question.
4. Pray and let the spirit lead.