



How Can I Be Sure I'm Saved
Shane Philip
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The Crossing Church
Las Vegas, Nevada

OPENING

This week we are continuing our study of [Quest 52](#) and this is week #33, "How Can I Be Sure I'm Saved?" The answer comes from the example of character in a parable about a good neighbor.

SCRIPTURE¹

Luke 10:29 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to *test* Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit *eternal life*?" "What is *written* in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" 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*; and, Love your *neighbor* as yourself." "You have answered *correctly*," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will *live*." But he wanted to *justify* himself, so he asked Jesus, "And *who* is my *neighbor*?"

Luke 10:30a In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down 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. A *priest* happened to be going *down* the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a *Levite*, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a *Samaritan*, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took *pity* on him. 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. The next day he took out *two denarii* 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.' "Which of these *three* do you think was a *neighbor* to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The *one* who had *mercy* on him." Jesus told him, "Go and *do* likewise."

Matthew 5:43-44 You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your *enemies* and *pray* for those who *persecute* you.

Matthew 5:46-47 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

James 1:19b Everyone should be *quick* to listen, *slow* to speak and *slow* to become angry,

Leviticus 19:18 Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone *among your people*, but *love your neighbor* as yourself. I am the Lord.

¹ NIV translation unless otherwise indicated.

Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the Lord your God with all of your heart with all of your soul and with all of your strength.

OBSERVATION

Our study this week comes in two parts: 1) The answer to the question, “Who is my neighbor?” and 2) A demonstration of what a saved person looks like in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus was asked by a scripture master what he must do to inherit eternal life. The answer came from Deuteronomy 6 and Leviticus 19 involving loving God and neighbors. The Jews considered neighbors to be only other Jews! Then Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan. The Jews would never have thought of a Samaritan as good – to them they were dogs and hated them. The animosity dated back to 722 B. C. when the Assyrians took the Northern Kingdom into exile, but left a remnant behind. This remnant intermarried with Assyrians left behind to govern the area and their children were considered “bastards” and unclean. Travelers went out of their way to avoid the area called Samaria as they journeyed between The Galilee and Jerusalem. The Samaritan in our parable is the third person to pass by an injured man on the side of the road. The first two were Jewish men were supposedly religious people, on a spiritual high from being in the Temple there and have just shown their devotion to God by loving Him with their hearts, soul, mind and strength, yet who passed by in disgust. They believed the injured man deserved his beating because of sin or karma or something.

QUESTION: Do we need to see a greater example of racism than this story? Where do you see racism in yourself? How do you demonstrate it?

APPLICATION

Love for God is demonstrated by our love for others. We may say it is easy to love God: We sing songs of gratitude for what He has done for us; we know that He loves us on our worst day; we live forgiven because of Jesus. But loving unlovable people is not easy. We are so divided today by politics, sexuality, gender identity, abortion, climate change, issues of justice, and gun control, aren't we? Well, Jesus tells us to get out of our minds that our neighbors are just our friends and people who like us and agree with us. Loving someone doesn't mean we have to agree or believe the same way. We don't get credit for loving people who are easy to love and love us in return. The people we are required to love are anyone we come in contact with.

QUESTION: Who are the people who are easy to love in your life?

QUESTION: Who are the unlovable people in your life?

How did the Samaritan neighbor show compassion for the man? 1) He bandaged him; 2) He touched him; 3) He eased his pain; 4) He spent time nursing him; 5) He paid for his recovery. From this point forward, no one would be able to limit the concept of neighbor to their own people and their friends. Jesus is asking us to examine our hearts and our prejudices.

QUESTION: Who are the people you justify not to love?

QUESTION: Whom do you have contempt for?

So, how do we love the unlovable? **1) Pray for them.** It will release us to love them even if they betrayed or offended us; **2) Have a conversation with them.** We don't have to defend ourselves or convince them of our perspective - just listen; **3) Serve them.** The Samaritan not only stopped – he served. He paid the price out of his own pocket in order to love his neighbor. God has called us to a ministry of reconciliation and it begins with neighborliness. It is Jesus' death that ensures

our salvation, not our performance so, we can know we are saved when we demonstrate it by loving God's other children.²

QUESTION: Who is the unlovable person you need to reach out to with compassion today?

QUESTION: John 3:16 is the foremost scripture that tells us how to be saved. How does this week's study complement that scripture?

QUESTION: What new thoughts do you have about neighborliness because of this week's study? What about the assurance of your own salvation?

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, help us to rid ourselves of any racism exhibited in our behavior or perspectives. We love You and want only to please and glorify Your name in all the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

QUESTIONS

QUESTION: Do we need to see a greater example of racism than this story? Where do you see racism in yourself? How do you demonstrate it?

QUESTION: Who are the people who are easy to love in your life?

QUESTION: Who are the unlovable people in your life?

QUESTION: Who are the people you justify not to love?

QUESTION: Whom do you have contempt for?

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² Quest 52. Mark E. Moore. Waterbrook Publishing. 2021. Pages 211-212