



Luke 10:25-37 (NRSV)

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to

inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

²⁷He answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." ²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Opening

- 1. Pray:** Loving God, enter into this space and quiet our busied minds. Quiet our anxiety and alleviate our fears. Help us find our center so we may love you and others as you first loved us. Amen.
- 2. Share:** Share one thing you joined, earned, or achieved where the requirements to do the same today have significantly changed. What's different?

Dive Into the Text

1. What is at the heart of the lawyer's question in verse 25?
2. How does Jesus' answer to the question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" differ from how you would answer that question?
3. What is at the heart of the lawyer's question in verse 29?
4. What is the point of Jesus' parable about the Good Samaritan in response to the question, "Who is my neighbor"?
5. Connecting the question in verse 25 and Jesus' command to "Go and do likewise," how are we to find eternal life?

The "Let Them" Theory

The sermon introduces the principle that to love unconditionally, we must disentangle ourselves from codependency—the constant need for affirmation, control, or conditional safety:

[It's] a philosophy that is not new. It's found in 12 step recovery. There's a saying in 12 step recovery. "It is not my business what others think of me. It is only my business how I treat them." It's the same principle of letting people hate you. What Jesus says is: it does not let you off the hook from loving them. It lets you off the hook from trying to manage their opinion about you.

Heckert, Chris (Rev. Dr.). "Cross The Road."
Sermon, Haddonfield United Methodist Church,
October 26, 2025.

Building Bridges

"He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.'
Jesus said to him, '**Go and do likewise.**'"

Luke 10:37

Go Deeper

1. Mel Robbins' daughter told her, "If they want to go to a taco restaurant in the rain, let them." In what ways do you struggle to let other people make their own decisions? (*Mel Robbins is the author of the book "The Let Them Theory."*)
2. What is the key distinction between loving someone unconditionally and being a "doormat" or giving them a "pass on bad behavior"?
3. What is one act of unconditional mercy or love where you do not expect or require anything in return that you can perform this week?

Close in Prayer

Close your time in prayer together.