

Faith Must Come with Action

Luke 10:25-37

25 One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" **26** Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" **27** The man answered, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" ^[a] **28** "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" **29** The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. **31** "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. **32** A Temple assistant ^[b] walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

33 "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. **34** Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. **35** The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, ^[c] telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.' **36** "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. **37** The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

Matthew 25:31-46

31 "But when the Son of Man^[a] comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. **32** All the nations^[b] will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. **35** For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. **36** I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'**37** "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? **39** When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

40 "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters,^[c] you were doing it to me!'**41** "Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.'^[d] **42** For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. **43** I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

44 "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?'**45** "And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth,

when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’⁴⁶ “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

John 13:35³⁵ (A) By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

James 1:27

²⁷ Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

James 2:14-18

¹⁴ What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶ and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

¹⁷ So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. ¹⁸ Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.”