

Parables: Showing the Way of Jesus

The Way of Mercy
Luke 10:25-37

Remember these important elements about parables. Jesus said...

- 1) *They Reveal Secrets to Those Who Desire the Truth.*
- 2) *They Conceal Secrets from Those Who Deny the Truth.*

We can better understand these parables as we do 3 things:

- 1) *Listen from the Hearers Perspective*
- 2) *Look for the Main Point*
- 3) *Let the Truth Change Our Perspective*

Week 1 - **Way of Receptivity**, from the Parable of the Four Soils

Week 2 - **Way of Obedience**, from the Wise and Foolish Builders

Today we will talk about the **Way of Mercy**.

*“And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, ‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? How do you read it?’ And he 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.’ And he said to him, ‘You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.’ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You go, and do likewise.’” **Luke 10:25–37***

Main Idea: The way of Jesus challenges us to extend mercy to everyone.

Three Responses to the Mercy of God from Luke 10:25-37

1. God’s Mercy Ignored (25-29)

“And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, ‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? How do you read it?’ And he 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.’ And he said to him, ‘You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.’ **Luke 10:25-28***

Loving God may seem internal, personal, invisible, but genuine faith will show up outwardly!

*“But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” **James 2:18***

If you do everything perfectly, God will accept you on your own merit. But...

*“We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.” **Isaiah 64:6***

Here’s what God says about His own law.

*“For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” **Romans 3:20***

*“But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’” **Luke 10:29***

Main Idea: The way of Jesus challenges us to extend mercy to everyone.

2. God’s Mercy Denied (30-32)

*“Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.’” **Luke 10:30-32***

The Priest and the Levite should have known better. In their minds, they may have had some very reasonable excuses.

We are all susceptible to drawing a line in the sand where our mercy ends. What are our excuses?

*“But when he heard it, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.” For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.’” **Matthew 9:12–13***

Main Idea: The way of Jesus challenges us to extend mercy to everyone.

3. God’s Mercy Extended (33-35)

“‘But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, “Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.” Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You go, and do likewise.’” **Luke 10:33-37**

He saw the need, felt compassion, and stepped in to help.

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” **Micah 6:8** (NKJV)

Main Idea: The way of Jesus challenges us to extend mercy to everyone.

So represent Christ’s love to the world every day.

This is a small picture of the self-sacrificing love and mercy Jesus showed for us by going to the cross. He showed immeasurable mercy at great cost to Himself, so that we might be saved.

“he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy” **Titus 3:5**

Will you turn from your sin and place your faith in Jesus to save you?

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *The New American Commentary: Luke* – Robert H. Stein (1992)
- *Exalting Jesus in Luke* – Thabiti Anyabwile (2018)
- *Luke 1-12 for You* – Mike McKinley (2016)
- *ESV Study Bible* – Crossway (2008)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- *Opening Up Luke’s Gospel* - Gavin Childress (2006)
- *Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary* - Matthew Henry & Thomas Scott (1997)
- *Commentary Critical & Explanatory on the Whole Bible* - Jamieson, Fausset, & Brown (1997)