

THE
MATTHEW 25
CHALLENGE

Matthew 25 Challenge

Part 4: Neighbors Near and Far

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ 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."

Luke 10:25-37

²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." ²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ 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.

Luke 10:25-37

³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

Luke 10:25-37

³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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.'

Luke 10:25-37

³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Three Major Impediments We Face

Awareness

Awareness

- We can't be held accountable to needs we don't know about

Access

Access

- Prior to WWII, international air travel was extremely uncommon for typical Americans

Ability

Ability

- Our ability to provide effective assistance was limited for a time
- We did not understand the complex relationship between poverty, health, culture, and economics

Who is my neighbor?

Putting Christ to the Test

Putting Christ to the Test

- The lawyer saw his neighbor as a problem to discuss

Putting Christ to the Test

- The lawyer wished to substitute the Law for love and knowledge for action

Putting Christ to the Test

- The thieves saw the man as a victim to exploit

Putting Christ to the Test

- The Priest and Levite saw the man as a nuisance to avoid

Putting Christ to the Test

- The Samaritan saw who needed help
 - Showed compassion
 - Made contact
 - Paid the cost of concern

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Matthew 28:18-20 without compassion lacks power.