

*“Wrong Question!”*

## 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Welcome:** Mike & Lorie, Jillian & Josh, home from the Philippines.
  - 1.1.1. Mike will be coming on staff with us as the **Pastor of Missionary Care**.
- 1.2. **Update Harvest Festival:** (Sat before Oct.31 {Oct 28th})
  - 1.2.1. We are in charge of food & all our booths. - Name not on flyer(we didn't want it to be); - Paint over verse reference(no problem).
  - 1.2.2. We not be doing shirts – we thought it would look like us vs. them!
  - 1.2.3. It's not a **project** but it's about **People!**
  - 1.2.4. We want to earn the right in our community to share the love of Christ
  - 1.2.5. **Q:** If you couldn't speak how would you communicate God's love?
- 1.3. **Q:** How would you answer someone if they asked you, “What do I have to do to go to heaven?”
  - 1.3.1. I wouldn't have answered the way Jesus did here...which reminds me to **pray** before I answer. So, the H.S. can direct with His answer, & not my pat answer!

## 2. **WRONG QUESTION! (25-37)**

- 2.1. **HOW TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE!** (25-28)
- 2.2. **THE LAWYER'S QUESTION!** (25) “what shall I do to inherit eternal life!”
- 2.3. **Lawyer** – a specialist in Jewish Law. (both written & oral Torah)
- 2.4. **JESUS' QUESTION!** (26)
  - 2.4.1. In good rabbinical form, answers w/a question.
- 2.5. **THE LAWYER'S ANSWER!** (27)
  - 2.5.1. **An Adequate summary of the Law? Yes, he nailed it!** [Deut.6:5 & Lev.19:18]
  - 2.5.2. **Heart**(the emotional nature); **soul**(the willing nature); **strength**(the physical nature); **mind**(the intellectual nature).
    - 2.5.2.1. i.e. the whole person is to love Him!
- 2.6. **JESUS' RESPONSE!** (28)
  - 2.6.1. His emphasis was on “**do**” it then, & not just “believe” it!
    - 2.6.1.1. Note “**do**” in vs. 25,28,37.
  - 2.6.2. Lev.18:5 “**You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.**”
  - 2.6.3. The difference between **Law & Grace** is this:
    - 2.6.3.1. The **Law** says, **do this & live**. **Grace** says, **live & do this**.

- 2.7. **PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN!** (29-37)
- 2.8. This is one of the most **popular** parables:
- 2.8.1. Many have taken this name: **Hospitals**; We even have a **Good Samaritan Law** exists to protect from liability those who choose to aid people who are seriously ill or injured.
- 2.9. **THE LAWYER'S 2<sup>ND</sup> QUESTION!** (29) “**And who is my neighbor!**”
- 2.9.1. Note motive now comes out.
- 2.9.2. He wanted to **vindicate himself** w/a question, implying he did not know precisely what his duty was.
- 2.10. **JESUS ANSWERS WITH A PARABLE!** (30-37)
- 2.11. **Background:** From Jerusalem to Jericho is 17 miles.
- 2.11.1. It drops more than 1000’.
- 2.11.2. It is *wild country* w/many places for robbers to hide. (describe)
- 2.11.3. The man was attacked, robbed, beaten, & left to die. [Highway robbery!]
- 2.12. God permits 3 men to pass his way, testing their compassion in helping one in need
- 2.12.1. 2 Fail the test, 1 passes!
- 2.12.2. **Q: Does God still run this test today?**
- 2.13. **TWO FAILED THE TEST!** (31,32)
- 2.13.1. **Priest** – came alongside, & then he stepped over to the opposite side of the road to avoid **ceremonial contamination** with a stranger. (RWP)
- 2.13.1.1. He had both **opportunity & knowledge...but indifference!**
- 2.13.2. **Levite** – did the same.
- 2.13.3. Both were obligated according to the Law to **help a neighbor in need**. But also were obligated **not to defile themselves** by touching a dead body.
- 2.13.3.1. Defilement prevented their **service** in the temple & **eating** of the tithe. They both chose to pass by on the other side instead.
- 2.13.3.2. They passed by on the other side of the street, known also as the “**safe side**”!
- 2.13.4. He also had **opportunity & knowledge...but curiosity** preceded indifference! (*came & looked*)
- 2.13.5. **Note: Religious work does not make the worker religious!**
- 2.14. **Poem:** I was **hungry** and you formed a humanities club to discuss my hunger. Thank you. I was **imprisoned** and you crept off quietly to your chapel to pray for my release. Nice. I was **naked** and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance. What good did that do? I was **sick** and you knelt and thanked God for your health. But I needed you. I was **homeless** and you preached to me of the shelter of the love of God. I wish you'd taken me home. I was **lonely** and you left me alone to pray for me.

**Why didn't you stay?** You seem so holy, so close to God; But I'm still very hungry, lonely, cold, and still in pain. Does it matter? [anonymous]

2.15. **Q: Have you ever acted as the priest or Levite?**

2.15.1. We are all guilty as charged!

2.16. **ONE PASSED THE TEST!** (33-35)

2.17. Here we have a “foreigner”, *not included in the Jewish definition of a neighbor*, is the one who showed himself **neighbor** to the unfortunate Jew. [LKGNT]

2.17.1. He must have **shocked** his audience with **the hero** of the story being **a hated Samaritan**.

2.17.1.1. **Q: Where did Jesus just travel through?** (Samaria)

2.17.1.2. **Q: What was James & Johns desire for the Samaritans?** (fire)

2.17.2. You know the relationship between Jews & the Samaritans was strained.

2.17.2.1. **To tear down these walls Jesus: rebuked** their hostility towards them (9:55); He **healed** a Samaritan Leper(Lk.17:16); He **honored** this Samaritan here for his neighborliness; He **praised** a Samaritan for his gratitude(Lk.17:11-18); He **asked a drink** from a Samaritan women(Jn.4:7) & **preached to** the Samaritans she returned with; then in Acts 1:8 he challenged His disciples to **witness** in Samaria; Philip started a **mission** in Samaria(Acts 8:5)

2.17.3. So here he: **dressed the victims wounds**; let the man ride on his **donkey** while he walked in this dangerous territory; he **paid money** to the Inn keeper for extended convalescent care; he even **promised credit** for the additional funds if needed. {Sight, Sympathy, & Service!}

2.17.3.1. **Note** everything is touched in this man! - {his eyes, heart, feet, hands, thought, time, beast, speech, & money}

2.17.4. The Samaritan showed by his actions what love is!

2.17.4.1. James 2:17,18 **“faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”**

2.17.5. This is what we call “Practical” Christianity...but is there any other?

2.17.6. His compassion is seen in what in what he **DID** to help the man.

2.17.6.1. **Christian love is** acting for the good of the other persons – **whoever they are, whatever the cost, & however we feel!**<sup>1</sup>

2.17.6.2. **Sympathy is suffering with** the victim.

2.18. (37) I wonder if he couldn't say the word “*Samaaarrrrritan*”!

<sup>1</sup> Shepherd's Notes; pg.41

- 2.19. Jesus showed the Lawyer...he asked the *Wrong Question!*
- 2.19.1. The question **shouldn't** have been, "*who is my neighbor?*"  
But, "*to whom can I be a neighbor?*" (29 vs.36)
- 2.19.2. The answer to *who is my neighbor?* is **Anyone I can help!**
- 2.19.3. **Q: Who is my neighbor? A:** "well, **be a neighbor**, & the moment you are a neighborly person, you will find your neighbor in the one that needs your help!"<sup>2</sup>
- 2.19.4. **If your spirit is right** there is no need to ask, who is my neighbor!
- 2.19.5. **Love actually makes a neighbor!**
- 2.19.5.1. **If you want to know who your neighbor is...BE ONE!**
- 2.20. The story defines two people:
- 2.20.1. **Lawyer** – I'd keep the Law if I could, but I can't because it's unclear!
- 2.20.2. **Neighbor** – I see the need, recognize it, am able to meet it, & respond to it.
- 2.21. It is not difficult to **discuss** neighborliness in the **abstract**, but it **costs something** to be a **real neighbor**.
- 2.22. **Q: Do we pause to help** when we see injustice & hurt?  
**Or do we look for an escape**, like the priest & Levite?
- 2.23. You are never more Christlike than when you **feel** another's hurt & **seek** to help!<sup>3</sup>

### 3. **MARY & MARTHA! (38-42)** [Luke alone records this]

- 3.1. **Note:** Great picture, Jesus sitting at a friend's house, resting.
- 3.1.1. "The **heart** ought not to be an **Inn** where the Lord sometimes comes, but a **home** where he always abides!" (Griffith Thomas)
- 3.2. She **wasn't** in trouble for **servicing too much**.
- 3.2.1. **It wasn't wrong action, but right action in wrong spirit & at wrong time!**
- 3.2.2. May we be engaged in the Master's service in **everything** we do.
- 3.2.3. Her fault was that she grew **distracted** with much serving, so that she **forgot Him & remembered only her service!**
- 3.2.4. She overrode her **union with Christ** by her **service to Christ**.<sup>4</sup>
- 3.2.5. **Distracted** = to be pulled or dragged away. [LKGNT]
- 3.2.5.1. **She was drawn about in many different directions.** [Plummer]
- 3.3. Maybe Martha could have just served Him **one** dish, & then been able to relax & join her sister.
- 3.3.1. **But serving love** shows itself by always **multiplying itself**.

<sup>2</sup> G. Campbell Morgan; pg.139.

<sup>3</sup> Warren Wiersbe; With The Word; pg.676

<sup>4</sup> Spurgeon at his Best; pg.283.

- 3.3.2. **Ex:** She went to do something & on her way found 2 other things...& she moved a little more quickly. And while she was going to do those, 4 more were suggested. And then 8 crowded in. Then 16, & she became distracted.
- 3.3.2.1. **Illus:** I need to cut down 2 trees in my back yard & a friend was coming by to give me a quote yesterday morn. I thought I'd **blow off my patio** in my backyard before he arrived. I did, & thought I should **rake the leaves** off my grass. In doing that I almost stepped I **dog-doo**. So I went around the whole yard & picked it up. I saw some trees hanging down too far so I started **trimming all trees** in my front yard. Which then I saw my **front walk way** to our door needing trimming...3 hours later I stopped.
- 3.3.3. Martha, whose #1 purpose was to make Jesus welcome, **snaps & comes running in complaining about Jesus' carelessness (don't you care?) & complaining about her sister.**
- 3.4. **Also?** (39) – If it means Martha sat at His feet **also**, then we loose the whole story.
- 3.4.1. It must mean Mary had taken her part in service...who **also sat at Jesus' feet.**
- 3.4.2. Mary knew the **1 deep secret**, that **love** cannot finally express itself in **service**. It must take place in **devotion**.
- 3.4.3. He **didn't say many things were wrong**, He said you have not added to the many, **the one!**
- 3.4.3.1. You must not only **give**, you must also **receive!**
- 3.5. Here is the basis for all ministry, taking time to sit at the feet of Jesus & hear His Word. [purpose we require our children's church workers & other ministry's to sit in a service]
- 3.5.1. He tells Martha she must 1<sup>st</sup> be **ministered to** by the Savior, **before** she can effectively **minister for** the Savior.
- 3.6. **Martha, Martha** – joins in the 7 other in her **name doubled!**
- 3.6.1. [Abraham; Jacob; Moses; Samuel; Jerusalem; Simeon; Saul]
- 3.7. Are you too busy **servng** Him that you have no time to **love Him & listen** to Him?
- 3.7.1. See being right **with** God must come before working **for** God!
- 3.7.2. "I will not work my soul to save, For that my Lord has done;  
But I will work like any slave For love of God's dear Son."
- 3.8. Charles Wesley, "Faithful to my Lord's commands, I still would choose the better part; **Serve** with careful Martha's hands & **loving** Mary's heart."
- 3.9. **Quiet dependence** on Jesus is more important than **bustling service!**
- 3.10. "The **heart** ought not to be an **Inn** where the Lord sometimes comes, but a **home** where he always abides!" [Your heart?]