

Upside Down Kingdom The Good Samaritan

Community Group Script...
Luke 10:25-37

25 *On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

26 *"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"*

27 *He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'[a]; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' [b]"*

28 *"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."*

29 *But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

30 *In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. **31** A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. **32** So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. **34** He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. **35** The next day he took out two denarii[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'*

36 *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"*

37 *The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

The drop from Jerusalem, which lies 2700 feet above sea level, to Jericho, which lies 17 miles away about 800 feet below sea level, is more than 200 feet per mile. The terrain is barren, almost void of any vegetation, and hilly, with numerous hiding places for bandits along this notoriously treacherous road.

A priest and a Levite (two very religious men who worked at the Temple) passed by him on the other side of the road, which is a very interesting way for religious people to act.

But then a Samaritan, someone who is the bad guy in all the Jewish stories. In our day and age we might as well say "A Nazi," walked by, and instead of beating him up more, robbing him, or spitting on him, like most Jews at the time thought he would do; he

stops and takes pity on the man. He stops, risking his own life and wellbeing, and takes care of the man in trouble, out of his own pocket. Interesting. What are we to make of this upside down story? Everything I know about who the good guys and bad guys are, are flipped.

What I want you and your community group to do, is to put yourself in the shoes of the original listeners and really consider the implications and applications of this story about God's upside down Kingdom.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is the lawyer testing Jesus.
2. The lawyer (expert in the Old Testament Law) asked the most important question we can ask- "How can I have eternal life?" But notice he asks "what must I DO..."

Have you wrestled with your own eternal destiny?

3. Look at Luke 10:29. The Lawyer wanted to justify himself. He wanted to show that he was worthy of eternal life by his own value or efforts. What are some ways that you try to justify yourself? Even if you are a Christian- how do you try to show how you are worthy or more righteous than others?

4. Jesus' parable about the Good Samaritan shows that the Lawyer was asking the wrong question. Rather than asking "Who is my neighbor?" (an attempt to limit his responsibility under the law). He should have been asking "How can I be a good neighbor?"

5. In what ways have you or have we as a church been asking the wrong question? Are you trying to lessen our responsibility or are we open to loving and caring for everyone in our community?

6. What possible excuses could the priest and the Levite have had for refusing to stop and help the man in need?

7. How did Jesus's parable answer the question, "And who is my neighbor"?