

Who is Your Neighbor?

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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Luke 10:25-36

25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, **What is written in the law? how readest thou?**

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, **Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.**

29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

30 And Jesus answering said, **A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead.**

31 **And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.**

32 **And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked *on him*, and passed by on the other side.**

33 **But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*,**

34 **And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.**

35 **And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.**

36 **Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?**

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, **Go, and do thou likewise.**

When we read this amazing story of the Good Samaritan, the most basic application we see is that we all should go and do likewise.

We can be like the priest, we can be like the Levite, or... we can be like the Good Samaritan.

To you who have been saved and reading your Bible for a while; I'm sure you have noticed that you begin to see more and more within certain passages of the Scriptures than you did the first few times you read them.

This is one of those passages.

The question here from the lawyer is not a sincere question at all. When he calls Jesus "Master" there is sarcasm beneath his words. It was only something asked of Jesus to try and trip Him up; he was tempting Him.

Jesus answered this lawyer's question in His own typical style.

To those who wish to be justified by keeping the law and by their own righteousness, the Lord has always said, "Okay, go for it".

No man has kept the law, nor are any capable of it...but if that is what you want and you think you can do it like this lawyer and you don't need a Savior; by all means, go for it!

It is just like Jesus told the rich young ruler:

Luke 18:18-24

18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.

20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet

lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, **How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!**

I guess he didn't really love his neighbor **as himself** after all...nor has anyone else. And that is just one of God's many laws we all have broken.

Gaining eternal life is not now, nor has it ever been, the purpose of God's law.

Romans 3:19-20

19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for **by the law is the knowledge of sin.**

Jesus' story about the Good Samaritan, whether actual or whether a parable, is really an allegory.

Allegory: a representation of an abstract or spiritual meaning through concrete or material forms; figurative treatment of one subject under the guise of another.

This is a story about you and about me and, most importantly, about Jesus Himself.

Allow me to show you who these characters of the story really are.

Our first character is:

I. The Certain Man.

A. This certain man is you...and me... and every other sinner. (Oh, I know you wanted to be the Good Samaritan; but sorry, that role is

reserved for Someone much more special.)

1. A certain man was making a journey from Jerusalem to Jericho.
2. Every Adult in this place has made the journey from spiritual Jerusalem, a place of peace and righteousness, all the way down to spiritual Jericho.
3. Even though, thanks to Adam, we all were born in sin, but as **Romans 5:13** tells us, ...**sin is not imputed when there is no law.**
4. We have all journeyed from our childhood innocence of spiritual Jerusalem down to spiritual Jericho, the world of sin and depravity.
5. Jerusalem was a city that signified peace, beautiful and well situated; where was the worship of God, and His divine presence.
6. Jericho was a city accursed by Joshua, and a very wicked place in the days of Christ.
7. The journey there was filled with perils, as is the journey from our childhood to becoming full-grown sinners.

B. There on the way to spiritual Jericho we fell among thieves and robbers.

1. Sin stripped us of our original righteousness.
2. Sin wounded us and as verse 30 declares; “left us half dead”.
3. Half dead is exactly the spiritual condition of one who has fallen to sin.
4. **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin *is* death...
5. Our spiritual half became dead in sins.
6. **Ephesians 2:1 & 5**
1 And you *hath* he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

7. You may have been up walking around thinking everything's great, but your spirit was broken, wounded and dead in sins.

8. Paul said,

Romans 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

Next this certain man looked for help from:

II. The Priest and the Levite.

A. A priest came by.

1. He represents religion.
2. You yourself may have sought help from religion as well.
3. Church and baptism and singing and praying and preaching and giving and dressing up on Sunday and Mass and Catechism, being a good person and being oh, so religious!
4. Yet with all that religion, you were still left wounded and dead in your sins.
5. Nothing really changed; you were still the walking dead man you were before.

B. Then a Levite came by.

1. The Levite is representative of God's law.
2. You may have tried keeping the law to fix your problem.
3. "I'm just going to be so good that God will just have to accept me."

3. You found, for one thing, you couldn't keep the law; nobody can.
4. For another, you have already broken it.
5. For another, you found that you cannot un-break it.
6. Trying to keep God's law - the very best you could - still left you broken, wounded and dead in your sins.
7. **Romans 8:3** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Our next character is:

III. A Certain Samaritan.

A. *Who is this "certain Samaritan"?*

1. In Jesus' day a Samaritan was looked upon as a half breed and was by the world summarily despised and rejected.
2. This is exactly who the ruling class of the Jews, as was the one tempting Jesus with this question, thought Jesus to be.
3. Look at their opinion in **John 8:33-48**

33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever.

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus

saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, *even* God.

42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word.

44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

45 And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not.

46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.

48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

4. These lawyers thought Jesus to be a half breed, born of fornication; one they truly despised and rejected, just like a Samaritan.

5. It is no accident that Jesus made a Samaritan the hero of this story.

6. They were right about one thing though; Jesus is by definition a half breed...He is both God and man!

B. Look at some of the similarities of this certain Samaritan.

1. He came and found the wounded man.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

2. He bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine.
 - a. We know what the wine represents;

1 Corinthians 11:25 ... This cup is the new testament in my blood... “What can wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

- b. Wine for cleansing and oil for comfort.

c. **John 14:16-17**

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

3. He brought him to an inn; a place where he would be cared for.
 - a. Where does Jesus bring the wounded He saves for healing and care today?
 - b. Welcome to The Lighthouse Baptist Inn!
4. There are places of rest and comfort and safety out there in the wilderness or “worlderness” if you prefer; The Lord placed Lighthouse here to be one of those havens of rest.
5. Sin wounded you, broke you and took your spiritual life.
6. Jesus cleansed you of your sin and He has brought you to a place where you are loved and cared for; He did it all by Himself and He is paying the bill!
7. Some of you are still worrying, “What if I sin again?”
8. Jesus says, “Don’t worry, I paid for that, too”!

Conclusion:

Mark 12:30-31

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment.

31 And the second *is* like, *namely* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself...

So, Who is your neighbor?

This Neighbor died to pay for your sins, This Neighbor was buried and rose again in victory over sin and death and hell and the grave.

And just as He promised, This Neighbor is coming again.

The priest and the Levite are just going to leave you bleeding in the ditch.

You need the Good Samaritan.