

Bible Stories for Adults

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

Opening

- Gathering: Share an example of someone you've seen play the part of the Good Samaritan.
- Today's Focus: Jesus taught that that we are called to love God and our neighbor in word AND deed.
- Key Verses: *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, Love your neighbor as yourself.* Luke 10:27
- Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."* Luke 10:37

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Inquire (*Luke 10:25*)

What situation led to Jesus telling the parable of the good Samaritan?

Luke 10:25 = A lawyer *inquired* of Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life

What would Jews do to find God's will in a given matter?

Judges 18:5-6 = They would *inquire* of the Lord through a prophet or priest

Could just any prophet be used to *inquire* of the Lord?

1 Kings 22:6-7 = No, it had to be a true prophet of the Lord to get a true answer

How could 400 other prophets be so wrong? Wouldn't they at least be statistically right?

1 Kings 22:20-23 = We are to discern God's will, not a popular opinion

Why did the lawyer *inquire* of Jesus about a heavenly topic?

Luke 24:19 = Jesus was considered a prophet of the Lord

Why don't we have to go to a priest or prophet to *inquire* of God's will for our lives?

Hebrews 7:24-25 = Jesus intercedes for us, we go to Him to *inquire* of the Lord

How do we *inquire* of the Lord through Jesus?

John 14:13-14 = We pray in His name – in His will

Will God always answer when we *inquire* through Jesus' name? = Not a magic word

Ezekiel 20:31 = God says He will not answer the unrighteous who inquire

How can we be certain whether we will be answered?

John 15:5-7 = *If you remain in Me ... ask whatever you wish and it will be given you*

Inform (*Luke 10:26*)

How did Jesus reply to the lawyer's inquiry?

Luke 10:26 = Jesus said he already knew and pointed him to the source of *information*

Why would Jesus point the lawyer to God's Law for an *informative* answer?

Joshua 1:7-8 = The lawyer had studied the Law and knew its promises

Why would Jesus point to the Scripture to *inform* the lawyer? = God's word, the Bible

2 Timothy 3:16 = *All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching...*

Is it important that we are *informed* by the Scriptures?

Matthew 22:29 = Without the Scripture, we cannot expect to know God's will or power

What is the most important *information* provided by the Scriptures?

1 John 5:13 = Scripture was written so that those who believe may know they have eternal life

How are we *informed* about what we are to believe?

John 20:31 = The Scriptures are written that we may believe

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Inclusive (Luke 10:27)

What answer did the lawyer give to *inclusively* summarize God's Law?

Luke 10:27 = *Love the Lord your God with all ... and Love your neighbor as yourself*

Would Jesus agree with this reply as an *inclusive* summary of God's commands?

Mark 12:28-34 = Yes, He gave the same summary to identify the greatest commandments

Love the Lord - Commandments 1-3; Love your neighbor - Commandments 4-10

Was this greatest command of loving the Lord a new *inclusive* summary to the Jews? = *Shema* - hear

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 = Key part of the Shema, recited by Jews 3 times daily and in worship

Was the second command of loving our neighbor a new *inclusive* summary to the Jew?

Leviticus 19:18 = No, commanded by God through Moses

Instruct (Luke 10:28)

How did this summary of God's Law *instruct* the man what he must do to inherit eternal life?

Luke 10:28 = *Do this and you will live*

How does loving the Lord relate to keeping His commandments?

John 14:21, 23 = In loving the Lord, we obey His commands and He lives in us

How are we *instructed* about what God wants simply by loving Him and living with Him?

Romans 8:5, 9-10 = If the Spirit lives in us, we will know His desires for us

What promises are we given if we love the Lord and allow the Spirit to live in us?

Romans 8:11, 28 = God will bless us both in this life and eternally

Why is the second command to love our neighbor essential to receiving eternal life?

1 John 4:20-21 = We cannot obey the first (loving God) if we do not obey the second

How are we *instructed* about what it means to love our neighbor? = Love is shown in action, not words

1 John 3:16-18 = Use Jesus' example of love by giving all

Was this John's *instruction* or was it God's?

John 15:12-13, 17 = Jesus said we are to love one another by giving completely

How important is love?

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13 = Anything else is worthless without love

Romans 13:10 = *Love is the fulfillment of the law*

Interpret (Luke 10:29)

Would the lawyer accept this inclusive instruction, or would he try to *interpret* specifics out of it?

Matthew 19:16-18a = Like us, he would want a specific task - what one thing, which ones?

How did Jesus point out the *interpretation* that we are to give our whole selves, not just a part?

Matthew 19:18b-23, 29 = We are to love God more than anything and to live in him

How did the lawyer show that he wanted an easy task to earn his way into heaven?

Luke 10:29 = He asked for a specific *interpretation* of who he needed to love

Did the lawyer have a valid question when asking who should be treated as a neighbor?

Leviticus 19:33-34 = No, even foreigners were to be treated as neighbors

Did the Jews practice this love of foreigners in Jesus day?

Acts 10:28 = No, they made laws that they were not even to associate with non-Jews

How was this barrier between foreigners removed?

Ephesians 2:13-16 = Jesus destroyed the barrier with his flesh and blood

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Inflict (Luke 10:30)

How did Jesus find it best to help the lawyer understand who was his neighbor?

Luke 10:30 = Told a parable of a man who was *inflicted*

Why would Jesus use a story about someone who was *inflicted* to show who we are to love?

Luke 4:18 = We are to take Jesus' example of loving the oppressed and *inflicted*

Who are we actually serving when we lovingly serve others who have been *inflicted*?

Matthew 25:37-40 = God Himself

Notes: While Jericho was only 17 miles from Jerusalem, it was 3600 feet lower

Road was narrow and rocky with sharp turns - prime area for robbers

Known as the Red Way or Bloody Way because of its danger

Many had few extra clothes, making them valuable to steal

Ignore (Luke 10:31-32)

How did upstanding Jews respond to the situation of their inflicted brother?

Luke 10:31-32 = They *ignored* and avoided him

How would this half-dead Jew have felt about being *ignored*?

Psalms 142:3-4 = *No one cares for my life*

What was a priest and what was his job?

Numbers 3:10 = A descendant of Aaron chosen as priest to serve in the temple

Why would the priest feel he should *ignore* the half dead Jew and pass around him?

Leviticus 21:1-2 = Priests were not to be made unclean from a dead body

How was this even stricter for the high priest? = Matthew 26:65 – High priest tore clothes at Jesus' trial

Leviticus 21:10-11 = High priest couldn't even attend funeral of parents

What was a Levite and what was his job? = Aaron and Moses were Levites

Numbers 3:5-7 = Descendant of Levi (son of Jacob), assisted the priests

While not prevented like the priest from touching a dead body, why would the Levite *ignore* the man?

Numbers 19:11-12 = It would be a hassle to be unclean for 7 days

Why might the Levite have gone beyond *ignoring* his brother's need and passed around him?

Numbers 19:14 = Just being in the same room as one who had died made one unclean

Involve (Luke 10:33)

After being ignored by two leading Jews, who finally *involved* himself with the inflicted Jew?

Luke 10:33 = A Samaritan

What was a Samaritan? = Not Israelites at all, worshipped God along with other gods

2 Kings 17:22-24, 33 = People from other nations resettled in northern kingdom

Did the Jews accept Samaritans as their brothers under God?

Ezra 4:1-3 = No, only descendants of Abraham were considered to be Jews

How well did Jews and Samaritans get along during Jesus' time?

John 4:9 = They would not even associate with each other

What did Paul later explain that the Samaritan already understood?

Colossians 3:11-14 = There is no difference, *clothe yourself with compassion*

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Invest (Luke 10:34-35)

How did the Samaritan *invest* himself and his resources into serving this Jew?

Luke 10:34-35 = He personally gave first aid and took care of all of the Jew's needs

Two denarii was 2 days wages and could have covered up to 2 months in an inn

How are Christians called to emulate this Samaritan's *investment*?

Romans 12:13 = *Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

How did the Samaritan's *investment* stand out above the sacrifices made by the priest and Levite?

Hebrews 13:16 = *...share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased*

What did the priest and Levite miss about the importance of being clean for sacrifices?

Hosea 6:6 (1 Samuel 15:22) = *For I desire mercy, not sacrifice*

Instrument (Luke 10:36-37)

Did this parable help the lawyer understand how to be an *instrument* of God's love?

Luke 10:36-37 = Yes, he now understood what it meant to be a neighbor

Are we simply called to have compassion and feel for the needs of others?

Philippians 2:1-4 = No, Christian compassion means to be God's *instrument* in action

How did Jesus respond when he had compassion on those in need?

Matthew 14:14 = He responded in compassion and met their needs

How did Jesus further describe our calling to be His *instrument*?

Luke 6:32-36 = Love others without expecting anything in return, *your reward will be great*

But isn't faith alone needed to be rewarded with eternal life? Why are good deeds needed?

James 2:14-17 = Faith without deeds is no faith, deeds flow out from faith

Closing Prayer

Note: Ten "I"s for today's lesson are taken from speech by Tom Claus

(Chief and Pastor of Mohawk tribe) at 1996 Promise Keepers in Dallas (10/26/96)

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How clear is it to me about what I must do to inherit eternal life?
(Luke 10:25; 18:18-30; John 3:1-21; 20:31; Galatians 3:1-9; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 3:14-17)
2. How well do I understand what God wants of me?
(Luke 10:26-28; 22:42; Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Micah 6:8; Acts 17:25-28; Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; 2 John 2:15-17)
3. How well do I love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, strength and mind?
How is my love for God evident?
(Luke 10:27; Deuteronomy 6:5; 11:1, 13, 22; 13:3-4; 30:6, 16, 19-20; Joshua 22:5; 24:15; John 14:15, 23; 21:15-17)
4. How well do I love my neighbor as myself? How is my love for others evident?
(Luke 10:27; Exodus 20:1-11; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 25:31-40; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8; 1 John 5:2)
5. What kind of a neighbor am I to others?
(Luke 10:29-37; Exodus 20:12-17; Psalm 28:3; Proverbs 18:24; Zechariah 3:10; Romans 13:8-10; 15:1-2; Ephesians 4:25)