

Good Samaritan's Lesson

Week of May 4 - 10, 2020

Introduction

In today's lesson, Jesus sidesteps a trap about definitions. Faith is not about getting the right answer. It is more about living the questions of life with grace. Jesus uses a story about traveling on a very common road. Jerusalem and Jericho were the Twin Cities of Judea. People traversed that 20 mile stretch multiple times. But it passed through unpopulated wilderness, not without its dangers. There will always be threats along the road of life. In the midst of our fears, what will we do? Who will we be?

Lesson 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'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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 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."

Questions

1. Why does the lawyer ask for a definition of neighbor?
2. Is he trying to justify his own actions? Do you ever find yourself trying to justify your actions?
3. Is he trying to put a limit on who his neighbor is?
4. What gets in the way of helping our neighbor?
5. The Priest and the Levite passed by the wounded man on the other side of the road and chose not to help. Why do we sometimes choose not to get involved? Why is it sometimes so hard to do the right thing?

6. According to this passage, what is most important to Jesus? How much a person knows or what they do?
7. How can we go and “do likewise” according to this passage?

Prayer

Dear God, Please help me to be selfless and show mercy and compassion like the example you’ve given me in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Forgive me when I have walked on the other side of the road and not helped a person in need. In your loving name. Amen.