

# THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10.25–37

## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**25** Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” **26** He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?”

## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**27** He answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." **28** And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**29** But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" **30** Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.

## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**31** Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32** So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**33** But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. **34** He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.



## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**35** The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**36** Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" **37** He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Reader: **This is God's word.**

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**



# THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10.25–37

## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**25** Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” **26** He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?”

Craig S. Keener

To “inherit eternal life” meant to share in the life of the coming world, the life of the kingdom of God.

## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**26** He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

**27** He answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." **28** And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

ONE

We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.

# LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**29** But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”



# LEVITICUS 19.18, NRSV

“You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

## LEVITICUS 19.33–34, NRSV

**33** When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. **34** The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

# Joel B. Green

As a consequence of Hellenistic imperialism and Roman occupation, it could not be generally assumed in the first century of the Common Era that those dwelling among the people of Israel qualified as "neighbors." Different attitudes toward these foreign intrusions developed into a fractured social context in which boundaries distinguished not only between Jew and Gentile but also between Jewish factions. How far should love reach?

## LUKE 6:32–36, NRSV

**32** “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33** If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. **35** But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. **36** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.



## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**30** Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.

## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**31** Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32** So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.



TWO

We are unable to love like this.

## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**33** But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.

# Joel B. Green

...what distinguishes this traveler from the other two is not fundamentally that they are Jews and he is a Samaritan, nor is it that they had high status as religious functionaries and he does not. What individualizes him is his compassion, leading to action, in the face of their inaction.

# LUKE 7.13A, NRSV

When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her...

## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**34** He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **35** The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

## LUKE 10:25–37, NRSV

**36** Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" **37** He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."



ONE

We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.

TWO

We are unable to love like this.

THREE

Jesus is the true Good Samaritan

## THREE

Jesus is the true Good Samaritan whose enemy love empowers his people to "go and do likewise."

# Timothy Keller

We instinctively tend to limit for whom we exert ourselves. We do it for people like us, and for people whom we like. Jesus will have none of that. By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbor. Not everyone is your brother or sister in faith, but everyone is your neighbor, and you must love your neighbor.

N. T. Wright

No church, no Christian, can remain content with easy definitions which allow us to watch most of the world lying half-dead in the road.



# N. T. Wright

On the one hand we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.

# PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11, NRSV

**5** Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
**6** who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

# PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11, NRSV

**7** but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

**8** he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

# PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11, NRSV

**9** Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

**10** so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

# PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11, NRSV

**11** and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

# THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10.25–37