

"Good Samaritan"

Luke 10.25-37

THE SETTING

Film - "Entrapment" - 2 Art thieves / old man & young woman
She thinks she is using him to get her treasure / He actually uses her

v. 25 "Expert in the Law stood up to TEST Jesus" / LAW OF MOSES

Motive for Asking Question - 1) Gain info? 2) Display knowledge!

"TEST" strong word // Jesus to devil "Do not test God"

v. 29 "wanted to justify himself"

Setting - SYNAGOGUE? - "stood up" (seated for worship?)
PUBLIC GATHERING after teaching?

RIGHT QUESTION - "Eternal Life" but WRONG MOTIVE

TRAP OF LAW EXPERT -

Opinion - Jesus DID NOT HONOR the Law

Example - vs. 23,24 - Blessing of God given to rag tag followers, not priests

Trap Set - Thought Jesus would say something against the Holy Law

REVERSE TRAP - Honor Law?! Then OBEY IT!

the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.
Romans 8.7

JESUS' TRAP MIGHT CATCH YOU TOO! - do you believe AND obey?

THE STORY

Context - JESUS' ANSWER TO QUESTION - who is my neighbor?

NEW QUESTION - ARE YOU A NEIGHBOR?

Distance 27 kilometers - 1000 meter descent in elev Jerusalem to Jericho

STEEP ROAD - ROCKY, DESOLATE many caves for robbers to hide
aka "The Bloody Way"

Jericho - City for Priests & Levites - approx. 12,000 - month long duties
SHOULDN'T THEY HAVE SOUGHT TO MAKE ROAD SAFE?

v. 30 "a man" - JEWISH MAN / implied - BADLY BEATEN

REALISTIC STORY - not called a Parable - COULD HAVE OCCURED

THREE PASSER-BYS:

1) A Priest v. 31

Caring for people was job / responsibility / PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL
DISTRIBUTOR OR ALMS

2) A Levite v. 32 PRIEST'S HELPER Crosses the road even!

"Doesn't want to get involved"

BOTH MEN HAD GOOD REASONS -

- 1) Road was known as DANGEROUS
- 2) Maybe fallen man was TRICK
- 3) What could they do in REMOTE AREA
- 4) Gone from home for one month EAGER TO GET HOME

LAW THEY SERVED DEMANDED THEY STOP

Lev 19.34 "love your neighbor as you love yourself"

Micah 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Deut 15.7,8 “If there is a poor man among your brothers...do not be hard hearted or tight fisted toward your poor brother. Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs”

NO JUSTIFICATION - e.g. RITUAL PURIFICATION
JUST FINISHED SACRED TEMPLE ACTIVITIES “going down”

SCHEDULE conflicted with PURPOSE / Too Busy to Serve God

HYPOCRISY - Father - FAMILY WATCHES TOO MUCH T.V.
kids - cartoons // wife - soaps
"As soon as the football season is over, I'm going to pull plug"

3) v. 33 A Samaritan - TERRIBLE ENEMIES OF JEWS

Lk 9.53 Samaritan villagers refused to receive Jesus / Call down fire?

Jn 8.48 WORST INSULT - Jews called Jesus a “Samaritan”

LAWYER - and any other Jewish listener - EXPECTED WORST
evil Samaritan would probably finish off the wounded, helpless Jew

MASTER STORY TELLER - element of shock and surprise

SAMARITAN - NO REASON TO HELP

- 1) Same concerns about safety & schedule as first 2 men
- 2) Bad HISTORICAL RELATIONS
- 3) No ETHNIC AFFILIATION WITH JEW
- 4) No Cultural EXPECTATIONS
- 5) No LAW OF GOD DEMANDING HE HELP

WHY DID HE STOP AND HELP?

EVEN SHAMED “EXPERT” IN LAW KNOWS --- v. 37 “Mercy”

MERCY IN ACTION / COMPASSION

- 1) Physical PRESENCE v. 34 “he went to him”

NEIGHBOR LOVE DEMANDS INVOLVEMENT - being with them

LAWYER'S QUESTION - Abstract theory / SAMARITAN - concrete
not just "people out there somewhere" / REAL PERSON HERE & NOW

Old woman came to seminary at 1:30 on Thursday to see me - get \$
SON NEEDED \$ to bribe Police - Get out of Prison - NO \$ - food, prayer
CAME BACK REJOICING FRIDAY - Police released son, no \$ paid
Son coming Monday to talk about how to get off Drugs!

2) RISKED LIFE - v. 30 "robbers went away" - HOW FAR? HOW LONG?

3) Inconvenienced his SCHEDULED v. 33 "as he traveled" PURPOSE

v. 34 "put man on his own donkey" - LOST A LOT OF TIME

4) Scandalized his REPUTATION - what would people think?

John 4.9 "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan. How can you ask me for a drink?
(For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)"

5) Endangered his HEALTH v. 34 "bandaged his wounds"

Did he have rubber gloves? Maybe this beaten man had AIDS in blood?

6) Sacrificed his MONEY v. 35 "two silver coins - denarii" EVEN MORE
Denarii = Day's Wages

VARIOUS ATTITUDES

To the expert in the law, the wounded man was a subject to discuss

To the robbers, the wounded man was someone to use and exploit

To the religious men, the wounded man was someone to be avoided

To the innkeeper, the wounded man was a customer to serve for a fee

To the Samaritan, the wounded man was a human being worth caring for

To Jesus, all of them - and all of us - are worth dying for

EXPERT IN LAW - we think of him as ALL BAD? / Samaritan GOOD

- 1) Luke tells us MOTIVES - “test Jesus” / “justify himself”
- 2) WHAT DID OTHERS SEE AND THINK? - Honored Expert
- 3) v. 28 RIGHT DOCTRINE “you have answered correctly”
- 4) v. 37 RIGHT INTERPRETATION “one who had mercy”

WOULD WE MAKE HIM A CHURCH MEMBER? LEADER?

WOULD WE ASK HIM TO “receive Jesus in heart and be saved?”

APPEARS THAT JESUS HAS BAD THEOLOGY HERE -

Question - “inheriting Eternal Life” / Answer “Go and do likewise”

NOTHING MAN CAN DO TO BE SAVED? Salvation by works?

JESUS CALLS FOR TRANSFORMATION OF THINKING

from Merit to Mercy - what we earn to what we can never earn

LAWYER’S Answer to Needy - Help yourself, that is what I did!

Jesus paints picture of man who is HELPLESS - DEAD w/out HELP

Jesus wants to HUMBLE Lawyer w/ Demand of Mercy He REQUIRES
so Lawyer can RECEIVE mercy which ONLY Jesus can GIVE

GOSPEL - We’re sick & dying - Natural Enemy stops - Gives Self for us

- 1) Mercy is for UNDESERVING

Legalist - Help yourself, I did!

Christian - I will help you, because God helped me

Mother Theresa & sisters - Mercy to despised outcasts of Calcutta

NOT BASED ON worthiness // GOAL - MAKE them WORTHY

Luke 6.32-36 - Be merciful as your Father is merciful!

2) Mercy is SPONTANEOUS

Not planned or calculated - INSTINCT, REFLEX natural response to need

Old woman very wealthy - came toward end of life - Nephew came to help
SUSPECTED HE ONLY WANTED HER MONEY AS INHERITANCE
She dressed as beggar and stood by his doorway - He told her to get lost!
LOST HIS INHERITANCE - COULD NOT SHOW MERCY

Paul praised Macedonian believers - "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own..." 2 Cor 8.2,3

3) Mercy is LIFE GIVING

Mercy of Samaritan - SAVED LIFE OF WOUNDED MAN

Giver himself gains life - KNOWING LAW / NO ETERNAL LIFE

PARADOX OF GOSPEL - in Giving we Receive

Very wealthy man - Dying of rare disease - Doctor "Expensive treatment"
IF YOU WANT CURE - GIVE UP HOUSES, CARS, AND RICHES
"Of course. How can I enjoy all these things if I am dead?"

GOD REQUIRES THE LOVE THAT CANNOT BE REQUIRED

LAWYER - proud KNEW LAW / SAMARITAN - untaught DID LAW

4) Showing Mercy NECESSARY TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE

Luke 7 - Pharisee invited Jesus to dinner - gave no water to wash feet
Sinful woman washed feet with tears, wiped them with her hair

7.47 “Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven - for she loved much.
But he who has been forgiven little loves little.”

ETERNAL LIFE - CANNOT BE BOUGHT - COSTS US EVERYTHING

African man goes into shop - sees something very wonderful - must have
Owner “you can’t buy it, too expensive” / Man “I must have it”
Owner - How much in pocket? Bicycle? House? Things? Family? Self?

ETERNAL LIFE - CANNOT BE BOUGHT - COSTS US EVERYTHING

5) Mercy is FOR EVERYONE

Tend to think some DESERVE MISERY - Foolish waste of Money

EVEN ENEMIES DESERVE OUR MERCY - Samaritan helps Jew

How about Kazakhs and Russians - show mercy? Individuals? Church?

6) Mercy is MOTIVATION FOR MINISTRY

Lawyer - Priest & Levite ALL KNEW LAW AND ITS DEMANDS

Samaritan - Little or No knowledge of True God - FULLFILLED LAW

Why?

Social Custom? - BETTER FOR HIM TO KILL THE JEW

Wanted to Look Good? - WHO WOULD NOTICE

Sense of Guilt or Duty? - CANNOT EVOKE TRUE MERCY

v. 33 “he took pity on him” HEART OF JESUS

Luke 4 - Jesus defines Himself & Ministry

v. 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he anointed me to preach good news
to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of

sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

HE IS GOOD SHEPHERD - LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR SHEEP

In Jesus we EXPERIENCE MERCY

By Jesus we are TRANSFORMED by Mercy

With Jesus we are called to GIVE MERCY

THREE PRINCIPLES

1. Lack of Love is often easy to justify, even though it is never right
2. Our neighbor is anyone, of any race, creed, or social background who is in need
3. Love means acting to help meet the persons need

Question of Doing v. 26b

BLESSING OF ISRAEL - knowledge of God/word BECAME THEIR CURSE
to whom much is given, much will be required

SHOULD HAVE REALIZED HIS GUILT / FAILURE TO "with all"

"Doing the Greatest Commandment"

Luke 10.25-37

MOST ASK What can we eat? drink? wear? live? prosper? enjoy?

Matthew 7:13 wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads □
to destruction, and many enter through it.

□1. The Tests□

Lawyer "expert in the law" / PUBLIC GATHERING after teaching?

RIGHT QUESTION - WRONG MOTIVE

TIME of Messianic Expectancy in Israel - End of World

□a. Self Justification v. 25,29□

"TEST" strong word // Jesus to devil "Do not test God"

v. 29 fast, confident answers

JESUS WORD'S HAD HIT HOME - DUG DEEP

SOUGHT TO FIND SOME WAY OUT

the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's □
law, nor can it do so. Romans 8.7

□b. Question of Knowing v. 26a□ Jesus now conducts a test

"EXPERT IN THE LAW"

YOU ASK A QUESTION - BUT YOU KNOW THE ANSWER

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor □
gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their □
foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, □
they became fools Romans 1.21,22

PRIMARY IMPORTANCE OF SCRIPTURE not tradition, kupunas, Pharisees

reason for TEN TIMELESS WORDS - God's Law for Today's Christian

TIME OF RELIGIOUS CONFUSION:

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not □
speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.

Šc. Question of Doing v. 26b

BLESSING OF ISRAEL - knowledge of God/word BECAME THEIR CURSE
to whom much is given, much will be required

SHOULD HAVE REALIZED HIS GUILT / FAILURE TO "with all"

2. The Tale

Context - JESUS' ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION

NEW QUESTION - ARE YOU A NEIGHBOR?

Distance 17 miles - Jerusalem 2000 ft. HIGHER in Elev.
STEEP ROAD - THROUGH ROCKY MOUNTAINOUS REGION
many caves for robbers to hide

Ill's - Uganda BTTC THIEVES NOT ROBBERS

Jericho a City appointed for Priests and Levites to live- 12,000?
went up for monthly courses in Jerusalem
SHOULDN'T THEY HAVE SOUGHT TO MAKE ROAD SAFE?

a. A Busy Preacher v. 31

Caring for the people was their job / responsibility

RECENTLY ENGAGED IN SACRED TEMPLE ACTIVITIES

Micah 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what
does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and
to walk humbly with your God.

NO JUSTIFICATION - e.g. RITUAL PURIFICATION

HYPOCRISY - Father complained - FAMILY WATCHES TOO MUCH T.V.
kids - cartoons // wife - soaps

"As soon as the football season is over, I'm going to pull plug"

b. A Cautious Lawyer v. 32 Crosses the road even!

"Doesn't want to get involved"

TWO MEN ROBBED JEWELRY STORE

Lawyer and Dropout - Caught - Convicted - Sentenced
DROPOUT - 3 YRS / LAWYER - 10 YRS - Greater Responsibility

