

## The Good Samaritan

### Introduction.

- I. On one occasion a lawyer, a skilled teacher of the Mosaic law, came to Jesus and asked Him: "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" The lawyer did not ask this question with a sincere desire to know the truth, but to test Jesus concerning the law. If Christ did not answer according to the thinking of the Jewish leaders, they would expose Him to criticism by charging that He set aside the law. Jesus did not, however, fall into the trap of the lawyer. With great skill He replied by asking a question: "What is written in the law? how readest thou?" The lawyer's answer and Christ's reply. (Lk. 10:27, 28).
- II. The answer of Christ strongly implied that the lawyer had not been doing what the law taught.

#### I. "And Who Is My Neighbor?"

- A. The lawyer therefore wishing to justify himself asked: "And who is my neighbor?" This was a very controversial question among the Jews. The Jewish leaders believed in loving neighbors, but they greatly limited their definition of the word. They did not believe Gentiles and Samaritans were to be treated as neighbors, for they were considered heathen. Nor did they believe all the people of their race were to be treated as neighbors. They hated and despised tax-collectors and sinners and would not show mercy to them. They had so perverted this commandment that they believed only a few select friends were to be counted as neighbors. The lawyer hoped Jesus would give such a definition of the word to save face and maintain his public standing.
- B. In response to the lawyer's question Jesus uttered the parable of "The Good Samaritan." This beloved parable has left an indelible mark on the conscience of mankind. (Lk. 10:30-37).

**LUK 10:30** Jesus replied and said, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. 31 "And by chance a certain priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 "And likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 "But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, 34 and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 "And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.' 36 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" 37 And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

#### II. Characters Of The Parable - In this parable we have just read there are 4 characters who stand out.

- A. First, there was a man, undoubtedly a **Jew**, who was beaten and robbed by the thieves and left to die. This man was wounded and helpless. He stood in desperate need to compassion and mercy.

- B. Second, there was **a priest**. The priest was of the family of Aaron who conducted the worship services in temple. When this priest came and saw the wounded man and heard his groaning, he did not stop and render aid, but went on his way cold-heartedly leaving him to die. The Jew was not among those whom he considered to be a neighbor.
- C. The next man on the scene was **a Levite**. The Levite was a member of the tribe of Levi and was an assistant to the priests in many of the functions of the temple service. When he came upon this dying man, he also went his way leaving him to die.
- D. The last man to appear on the scene was **a Samaritan**.
  - 1. The Samaritans were Jews who had mixed their blood with foreigners. Because of this the Jews hated them and considered them no more than dogs. In the time of Christ the bitterness between Jews and Samaritans was so great that Jews would often go many miles out of their way rather than pass through Samaria.
  - 2. Jesus said this Samaritan had compassion on the wounded Jew and took care of his needs. He was willing to rise above racial prejudice and show mercy to all men. His conduct was a strong rebuke to these Jews who claimed to be so religious.

### III. **Main Object Of Parable** - This brings us to the main object of the parable.

The main purpose of the parable is to emphasize we are to show mercy to all men regardless of their race, color, or nationality. This mercy is to be demonstrated in many ways.

#### A. We are to have **mercy on the poor**.

- 1. Jesus was very mindful of the poor, and He taught us to be merciful to those who are poor. (Matt. 10:42; Gal. 6:10; Jas. 1:27).
- 2. In the world today there are teeming millions of people who stand in need of our mercy. More than half of the world's population is starving while most Americans count calories. Even in American there are thousands, perhaps even millions, who do not have enough food and clothing. Unless we have mercy on these people they will continue to suffer. Unless we have mercy on these people many will die.
- 3. **Jesus said**. (Matt. 23:23).
  - a. Christ could not accuse the brotherhood of tithing garden herbs, but He could well say to us, "You often major in minors and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done without neglecting the others."
  - b. As a brotherhood we are doing more benevolent work than ever before, but we still have a long way to come. The average member of the church only gives a very small amount a week in support of the orphans and widows and others in need. We are able to do better than that! We must do better than that to be saved! We need to fill our lives with compassion for the needy.

#### B. We are to have **mercy on those who stand in need of forgiveness**. (Matt. 18:21-35).

#### C. We are to be **merciful in their judgment of others**. We must not be heartless if they expect mercy.

1. Jesus said. (Matt. 5:7).
2. James said. (Jas. 2:13).
3. Someone has said, “There are two kinds of exercise that are extremely hard on the heart: running up stairs, and running down people.”

### Do Not Judge Too Harsh

<p>Pray don't find fault with the man who limps Or stumbles along the road, Unless you have worn the shoes he wears Or struggled beneath his load.</p> <p>There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt, Though hidden away from view, Or burdens he bears, placed on your back, Might cause you to stumble too.</p> <p>Don't sneer at the man who's down today, Unless you have felt the blow That caused his fall, or felt the shame That only the fallen know.</p>	<p>You may be strong, but still the blows That were his if dealt to you In the self-same way, at the self-same time, Might cause you to stagger too.</p> <p>Don't be too harsh with the man who sins, Or pelt him with words or stones, Unless you are sure, yea, double sure, That you have not sins of our own.</p> <p>For you know, perhaps, if the tempter's voice Should whisper as soft to you As it did to him when he went astray 'Would cause you to falter, too.</p>
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**D. We are to show mercy by having understanding of others.**

1. **There is a story told of a man in the depression of the 1930's who was begging.** He could find no work and had no one to turn to. One day he walked up to a well-dressed man on the street and said, “Sir, can your spare me a little money for something to eat?” The man began to make various excuses for not helping him. Finally, the beggar said, “Sir, if you can't let me have the money would you mind shaking my hand?” What this man needed even more than food was understanding and sympathy.
2. There are millions of people like him today. They need all the love and understanding that we can give them.
3. Once I read of a **4 year old boy** whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentlemen who recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentlemen's yard. The child climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother's asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, “Nothing, I just helped him cry.”
4. This little fellow did what we should do. We should have an understanding heart for others. We should weep with those who weep. (Rom. 12:15).

**E. We are to be merciful to the handicapped.**

1. We often show little mercy to those who are seriously handicapped. We are afraid they will be a burden to us.
2. **A young sailor telephoned his parents from San Diego** to say he was bringing his buddy home with him. He said, “You see, Mom, he was severely wounded, and only has one arm, one leg and one eye. I thought he might stay with us for a while.” His mother hesitated for a moment, then said, “Well, I guess it will be all right for a little while.” But her tone was such that he knew they hardly wanted a handicapped person

around for very long. Two days later his parents received a telegram informing them that their son had leaped to death from a hotel window. When they got the body, it had one arm, one leg, and one eye.

F. We are to be **merciful to those without the gospel.**

1. Jesus came “to seek and save the lost” (Lk. 19:10), and this is what we must do.
2. We must do all that is within his power to teach the lost souls of the world. Unless he cares enough to teach them they will die lost.
3. Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 4:13 that those who die without Christ have “no hope.” They will burn forever in hell.
4. This ought to put fire in our hearts to spend our lives winning these to Christ. The Christ we will not share, we cannot keep. The Christ we will not share is not the Master of our lives.

**Conclusion.**

- I. May the Lord help each of us to imitate the good Samaritan in our lives and practice the principle set forth in this poem written by James Childress.

**The Man By The Side Of The Road**

In the long, long ago a traveler came Down the road to Jericho; He fell among the robbers who stripped him and left Him dying from many a blow. A priest passed by on the other side, He had no time to spare; A Levite glanced at the wounded man, And left him dying there!	And he bathes and binds the bleeding wounds, Of the man by the side of the road; And on his beast of burden now, He places a different load. And then to the inn we see them move, This tiny caravan; The wounded man and the little beast, And the Good Samaritan.
A human being, beaten and robbed, And left by the road to die; And others content to have it so, And willing to pass him by. But, lo, another traveler comes, A man of a hated race, He comes to the victim’s side and grief And pity are in his face.	His time and strength and his money, too, The Good Samaritan gave: That he might from cruel death that day His needy neighbor save. And my prayer is that I may be like The man who mercy showed, In the long ago in the Jericho way To the man by the side of the road

- II. **Years ago a boy in Scotland was living a wayward life and was breaking his mother’s heart.** One night he became intoxicated and lost consciousness. When he woke up he found himself on a freighter, bound for Australia. He worked for a while in the gold mines of Australia and then staked out a claim of his own. Several months later he struck it rich. His first thought was of his mother and how he had treated her. He said to himself, “I’ll go home and buy her the finest house in town. I’ll hire servants to wait upon her, and I’ll take care of her and never cause her another minute’s worry as long as she lives.” He sailed for home and when he landed he hurried to his mother’s house. The door was locked so he knocked and knocked and called out his mother’s name, but there was no response. A neighbor saw him there and came over and led him out to the little cemetery. He saw there a new grave and a little sign with his mother’s name on it. He fell across the grave and sobbed over

and over, "Mother, I loved you, I did, I did." And the neighbor softly said, "Jack, you told her too late."

III. **There is One who loves you more than any mother ever loved a son.** He died for you and wants to fill your life with eternal blessings. Don't wait too long to return that love! Don't wait too long to give yourself to Jesus! The Master is calling you. Will you heed that call? Come in faith and be buried with Christ in baptism. Come as we stand and sing!

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