

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

They Ministry of Neighboring #1, Luke 10:25-37

February 7, 2021

*But he wanted to justify himself, so [the expert in the law] asked Jesus,
"And who is my neighbor?"*
Luke 10:29

What is a "neighbor"?

¹⁷ "Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.

¹⁸ "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:18

Hebrew: *rē'*, friend, companion, fellow-citizen (see Song of Songs 5:16)

Greek: *plēision*, in a position quite close to another

Latin: *proximum tuum*, the one nearest to you

English: from Old English "nigh" + "gebur", one who dwells near

- 1) Scripture never limits who I should love, it expands to the alien (19:33-34) then to my enemy (Matt. 5)
- 2) English goes back to its roots and makes "neighbor" relational!

Two revealing questions (and why Mr. Rogers was more popular than lawyers)

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 . . ."

Luke 10:25-30

Question #1: The expert in the law assumes he can earn eternal life

Question #2: The expert is more interested in justification before men than before God

Love is the tough part (or, How not to fight the yard sign wars)

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 thou likewise.”

Luke 10 with an assist from the KJV and Spurgeon (see Leviticus 19 and Romans 13:8-10)

- 1) Jesus tells this story to set up the self-justified
- 2) Love (and its cousin, mercy) fulfills the law, it does not replace the law
- 3) Jesus assumes that those who follow him to the cross are going to love like Deut. 6 and Lev. 19

Being the Samaritan (with a lot of help from D. A. Carson)

- 1) Jesus answered Question #1: An inheritance cannot be earned!

²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Luke 10:20, part of Jesus previous conversation with his disciples

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10

- 2) The Good Samaritan is _____

²¹ Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²² And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” ⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

Luke 9

- 3) That means that I am _____

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2

Resources for further studies of the Good Samaritan

The Bible Project team has great stuff on Luke at <https://bibleproject.com/learn/luke/>

Spurgeon has a classic sermon, "Go, and Do Thou Likewise" at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-good-samaritan/#flipbook/>

J. C. Ryle's commentary on Luke 10 at <https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/110.htm>

Deffinbaugh's sermon at <https://bible.org/seriespage/36-good-samaritan-luke-1025-37>

I have really appreciated D. A. Carson's video at <https://youtu.be/DvRlipoRnsU>

Romans 13

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light . . . ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

1-2 INTRODUCTION

- LUKE**: A UNITED, 1200-VOLUME WORK FROM THE SAME AUTHOR; A TRAVELING CO-WORKER WITH PAUL; A TRAVELING CO-WORKER WITH PAUL.
- LUKE**: HOW & WHY LUKE WROTE HIS GOSPEL: "I have been fulfilling my duty."
- HOW**: CONSULTS EYE-WITNESSES; TRANSLATIONS.
- WHY**: TO SHOW HOW THE STORY OF JESUS FULFILLS THE STORY OF GOD & ISRAEL... & THE WHOLE WORLD.

3-9a JESUS & HIS MISSION

- 3** JESUS' BAPTISM & GENEALOGY: "YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON."
- 4** JESUS LAUNCHES HIS KINGDOM MISSION: "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME... TO PREACH GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR & PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE OPPRESSED."
- 5-6** HEALING THE SICK: "JESUS' GOOD NEWS FOR THE POOR."
- 7-8** WELCOMING THE OUTSIDER: "RESISTANCE FROM LEADERS LEADS TO A NEW REVELATION."
- 9** JESUS' TRANSFORMATION: "TALKING TOGETHER ABOUT JESUS' EXODUS TO BE FULFILLED IN JERUSALEM."

9b-19a JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

- 10** TAKING OF THE PRODIGAL SON: "A FAVORITE SON RUNS AWAY... BUT COMES BACK EVENTUALLY."
- 11** JESUS' CONTINUED MISSION TO THE POOR: "JESUS BANQUETS WITH ISRAEL'S LEADERS VS. JESUS KINGDOM BANQUETS WITH THE POOR."
- 12** THE TRAGEDY OF ISRAEL'S LEADERS WHO REJECT JESUS & HIS KINGDOM: "GOD'S NOT AWAY FROM EVERYONE INTO HIS FAMILY."

19b-24 JESUS' FINAL WEEK IN JERUSALEM

- 19b** ARRIVAL & REJECTION IN JERUSALEM: "IF ONLY YOU HAD RECOGNIZED THE SIGN THAT PEACE IS NEAR!"
- 20-21** JESUS PREDICTS THE TEMPLE'S DESTRUCTION: "JERUSALEM WILL BE DESTROYED BY ARABIA!"
- 22** JESUS' LAST PASSOVER: "BROKEN BODY & SHED BLOOD CAN BRING ABOUT NEW LIFE!"
- 23** THE CRUCIFIXION: "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM... TODAY YOU'LL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE."

24-27 THE EMPTY TOMB & THE ROAD TO EMMASUS

- 24** THE EMPTY TOMB: "JESUS IS RISEN!"
- 25** THE ROAD TO EMMASUS: "SEE THOUGHT YOU WOULD REBECKEN ISRAEL, BUT HE'S HERE!"

THE POINT: ONLY WHEN WE SURRENDER OURSELVES TO JESUS' UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM, EMBODIED BY THE CROSS, CAN WE TRULY EXPERIENCE THE REAL JESUS.

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