

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-37

Define “Good Samaritan”: _____

> consensus: “someone who helps a stranger at considerable risk to himself – especially when others ignore the need”

* show article from NY

* You know the story ... (paraphrase it sans context)

> Even if we don’t re-read the story, we’re quick to understand one of its basic points:
Go the EXTRA MILE to help those in need! (Even when it’s not CONVENIENT.)

... But might there be more to the story?

The Context

> W/out reading ahead, do you know the context upon which Jesus told this story?

> Read 10:25-29

> The Lawyer was testing Jesus.

> Q: Was Jesus implying that someone can be saved by following the Law of Moses? (v.26)
Key: “How do you read it?”

A: The lawyer could only accomplish this feat by LIMITING the LOVE! (v.29)

-- How are loving people and loving God related? (1 John 3:10,11,14,16; 4:7,8)

> This conversation leads us to the main question of this parable?
WHO’S YOUR NEIGHBOR?

→ What is our definition of “neighbor?” The lawyer’s?

> Jesus’ answer to the question shed’s light on what it means to be saved!

The Story

Read 10:30-37

→ The Priest:

> Ministered in the temple. Carried out the sacrifices.

> Many priest took turns administering the sacrifices in the temple ... for some, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

→ The Levite:

> Worship leaders for ancient Israel. Assisted the priests in their duties

- > Why didn't they help the victim??
 - Leviticus 21:1; Ezekiel 44:25; Numbers 19:11-13 -- it would have made them UNCLEAN.
 - At most, the priest would have missed the opportunity to serve in the temple. At least, both would have been INCONVENIENCED in their duties.

- > The point? Their RELIGION blocked their RIGHTEOUSNESS!
 - What did the Samaritan use to heal the victim's wounds?
 - How else might these items be used by the priest and levite?
 - Irony: what the religious leaders would have used for "ministry," the Samaritan used for ministry!
 - Their "ministry" kept them from "ministering!"

- > Can you think of a time when "important things" might get in the way of real ministering?
 - read Buckingham, p. 111-2
 - driving to church and stopping to help
 - the seminary student experiment
 - Rochelle's call for gas today!

→ The Samaritan:

- > The Jews HATED the Samaritans. Why?
- > Samaritans were HALF-BREEDS.
 - In 722 BC, when Assyria took the Northern Kingdom of Israel into captivity, they brought foreigners (Gentiles) into Samaria to settle. They intermarried with what Jews were left.
- > Samaritans' worship was POLLUTED.
 - When their offer to help rebuild the temple was denied, they built their own temple on Mt. Gerizim.

- * Show map of location of Samaria and how Jews traveled from Judea to Galilee.
- * mention John 4 and the woman at the well

- > So, who was the neighbor? What is peculiar about the lawyer's answer?
A: He won't even say "Samaritan"

THE HARD TRUTH

- Q: To whom do you relate the most in this story?
- the lawyer? -- the priest or Levite? -- the Samaritan?

** I relate to the lawyer. I want to do well, but I find that I can't ... and so I'm tempted to justify!*

An allegory

The Samaritan = JESUS
 The Oil = the HOLY SPIRIT
 The Wine = the joy of SALVATION
 The Inn = the CHURCH
 The Innkeeper = the PASTOR

... and who are you? The VICTIM