

### RELATED SCRIPTURES

Matthew 10:10-14 | Isaiah 6:9-13 | Romans 7:13-24

### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 7.9.23

### SUMMARY

Foundational in understanding the parables of Jesus is a comprehension of their purpose. People often consider the parables as illustrations Jesus used to help people understand a central point in his teaching. This understanding is only partially true. Parables served to help open the eyes and ears of Jesus' disciples. *Still*, they also served to *close* the eyes and ears of Jesus' detractors—specifically, the pharisees and lawyers who opposed him and sought to “justify themselves” (Luke 10:29). So the parables clarified *and* confused (Matthew 10:10-14). The Good Samaritan showcases this dynamic in that there seems to be an obvious meaning while also carrying a more obscured meaning. The parable of the Good Samaritan is a response to a question posed to Jesus by a lawyer who asks how one inherits eternal life. Jesus then tells of a man who fell among robbers and left him for dead. Both a priest and a Levite (temple workers and strict followers of the law) saw the man yet passed him by. However, it was a Samaritan (considered an outsider by the law followers of the day) who not only stopped to help him but gave of himself to provide for the helpless man (v. 35). The initial analysis seems quite apparent when Jesus asks who “proved to be a neighbor” to the fallen man? It was the “one who showed him mercy.” This response leaves the hearer and reader to understand that we should go and do likewise—and we certainly should. However, we often miss that Jesus is the *true outsider* who gave of himself to save us, the helpless, wounded ones left for dead. We are the ones who couldn't be saved by religion and the law—they passed us by—but are only saved by the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ's righteousness and sacrifice.

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Luke 10:25-37.

How is the Parable of the Good Samaritan the proper response to the question initially posed to Jesus, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Is it significant that a lawyer (an expert on the Mosaic law) asks this question?

When you first read this parable, who do you identify with most? Do you find yourself as someone who strives to act as the Good Samaritan does, or do you see yourself as the wounded person on the road? How should the Christian relate to both?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.