

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25–37

But a certain Samaritan . . . had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, . . . and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. Luke 10:33–34

A lawyer asked Jesus, “Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 10:25). Jesus asked him what was written in the scriptures, and the lawyer answered, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself” (Luke 10:27; see also Luke 10:26).

Jesus told the lawyer that he would have eternal life if he obeyed this command, but then the lawyer asked, “Who is my neighbour?” (Luke 10:29; see also Luke 10:28). To answer the lawyer’s question, Jesus told the story of a man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way, he was attacked by thieves who took his clothes, beat him, and left him half dead. A priest came along and, seeing the injured man, passed by on the other side of the

road. Then a Levite came by, but he also passed on the other side of the road to avoid the man. (See Luke 10:30–32.)

Finally, a Samaritan came by and stopped to help the hurt man, washing and wrapping his wounds. The Samaritan put the man on his own animal, took him to an inn, and stayed with him through the night. The next day, the Samaritan gave the innkeeper money and said, “Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee” (Luke 10:35; see also Luke 10:33–34).

Jesus then asked the lawyer which of the three travelers was a good neighbor to the injured man (see Luke 10:36). The lawyer replied that the Samaritan was because he had cared for the man, and Jesus said, “Go, and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:37).

Summary

In the parable of the good Samaritan, Jesus told about a traveler who was attacked by thieves and left half dead. A priest and then a Levite saw the hurt man, but each of them passed by without helping. Finally, a Samaritan came by and stopped to help the man. He bandaged

the man’s wounds and carried him on his own animal to an inn. The Samaritan left money with the innkeeper for the man’s care. This story shows us what it means to follow the commandment to love our neighbors.

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