

Our Good Neighbor

Luke 10:25-37 ▪ October 26, 2025 ▪ Nick Braitto

The _____ Question: Who Is My Neighbor?

The _____ Question: Am I Being a Good Neighbor?

The _____ Question: Who Has Been a Good Neighbor to Me?

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."
²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side."

³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'
³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: When have you been in a difficult situation (e.g., car trouble, sick, overwhelmed) where someone, perhaps unexpectedly, stopped to help you? What did that person do, and how did it make you feel?

Read & Discuss: Luke 10:25-29

1. In verse 25, the lawyer asks what we must *do* to inherit eternal life. Why do you think we instinctively think that we must *do* something to inherit eternal life? Have you ever felt this pressure yourself? How do you think most people would answer the lawyer's question—and why?
2. The lawyer knew the core commands of the Law: Love God and love your neighbor. But he immediately asks, "And who is my neighbor?" (v. 29) Why is this question a signal that the lawyer was primarily concerned with justifying himself rather than on how to best love others?
3. We all face the "Hypocrisy Gap"—the space between what we know we should do and what we actually do. What are ways you're tempted to try to "shrink the definition" of love or obedience (like the lawyer did) to either do less or to make yourself feel better about falling short?
4. Priests and Levites were respected religious leaders. Thinking of Jesus' audience, why might He have chosen to have neither of these two men serve as the "good guys" in his story? What may have kept them from stopping to help? What reasons do we use to justify passing by people in need today?
5. Look closely at the list of actions the Samaritan takes in verses 34-35. What did his "compassion" (v. 33) cost him in terms of: Time? Risk? Money? Personal comfort? Thinking of the fact that Samaritans and Jews tended to be enemies, how are you challenged by the example of the Samaritan?
6. In the end, Jesus completely shifts the lawyer's question when He asks, "Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man?" (v. 36). Why is this shift from "Who must I love?" to "How can I act as a loving neighbor?" a much harder, more convicting challenge?
7. How is the situation of the man on the road a picture of our spiritual condition apart from God? How does knowing Jesus "crossed the road" to rescue us—when we were His enemy and helpless—change our motivation for "going and doing likewise"? How can it move us from duty to gratitude?

Apply: Who are those in need on the "roads" of your life that you are tempted to pass by? How could you be a "good neighbor" and go and "do likewise" (v. 37) for one of them this week?

Pray: Thank Jesus for not "passing by" when we were down and helpless. Confess our failure to love others as He loved us. Pray for a heart of active compassion and the courage to "go and do likewise."