

# PARABLES

— TRUTH HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT —

## Lesson 7: The Good Samaritan

(Luke 10:25-37)

### INTRODUCTION

The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us that to love my neighbour requires to be first savingly loved by God

### THE CONTEXT

v. 25 – A religious lawyer asks the right question with the wrong motive

v. 26 – Jesus turns the question back to the lawyer

v. 27 – The lawyer answers correctly, placing his finger on the heart of the Old Testament

v. 28 – Jesus prescribes a relationship with God that shapes life

v. 29 – The lawyer justifies himself asking, “Who is my neighbour?”

*Lev. 19:18, "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."*

# THE PARABLE

## Jesus sets the scene (v. 30)

Jesus sets before the lawyer a situation that will cause him to understand who his neighbour is

## Three people, three responses (vv. 31-33)

### (1) Priest (v. 31)

The priest ignores Old Testament Law and purposefully avoids his neighbour in need

### (2) Levite (v. 32)

The Levite, also well versed in Old Testament Law, also purposefully avoids his neighbour in need

How would you have responded?

### (3) Samaritan (v. 33)

A Samaritan, despised by Jews and perhaps ignorant of the Old Testament Law, shows compassion towards his neighbour

# Neighbourly love displayed (vv. 34-35)

The Samaritan shows what it means to love your neighbour as yourself

## THE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

### (1) Who is my neighbour?

My neighbour is anyone whose need I see, and whose need God puts me in a position to meet

### (2) What is my duty?

Jesus said, "*Which of these three, do you think, **proved** to be a neighbour?*"

The key is not to define "neighbour" but to become the kind of person who cannot pass by on the other side

Who you are determines what you see. And what you see determines what you do

Am I concerned about calculating the limits of love or about caring for hurting people?

### **(3) What is love?**

Love is the compassion that feels, the care that involves, and the commitment that endures

*1 John 3:17, " But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"*

*Martin Luther, "Faith alone justifies, yet faith is never alone. It is never without love; if love is lacking, neither is there faith, but mere hypocrisy"*

### **(4) What is my need?**

Our only ability to love our neighbour come from firstly receiving the love of God in Christ

*1 John 4:19, We love because he first loved us*

Loving my neighbor is visible evidence of my relationship to God through Jesus Christ

### **Application**