

## LUKE Lesson 26

### Who is My Neighbor? (Luke 10:25-37)

30 November 2018

- Vs 25 Introducing the lawyer:** he knows the law, he wants to catch Jesus in His words, hoping to prove that He's "not so great." He calls Jesus "Master" (like Judas Iscariot) instead of "Lord" (like the disciples).
- Vs 26** Jesus said, "**What is written in the law?**" Jesus always turned to the written scriptures to answer all matters, whether dealing with believers, skeptics, or the Devil (Mt 4:4, 7, 10, Lk 4:4, 8). This is the best way to avoid arguments (no feelings, no opinions, no preferences).
- Vs 27** The "**first and great commandment**" (Mt 22:38) and "**the first commandment of all**" (Mk 12:28) is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mk 12:30). If you love God, you will keep His commandments (Jn 14:21).
- Secondly, "**thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself**" (Mk 12:31). If you love others as much as you love yourself (Eph 5:29), you won't violate God's commands concerning those relationships.
- Vs 28** "**This do, and thou shalt live.**" The problem is that no man can do it (Rom 3:10, 23). Aren't you glad that salvation is by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9, Tit 3:5)?
- Vs 29** The lawyer was "**willing to justify himself.**" He was self-righteous. But he wanted some clarification. "**Who is my neighbor?**" Why? Because, like most people, he was able to love those who treated him with kindness (see Lk 6:32, Mt 5:46-47), but he was hoping the commandment to love thy neighbor didn't apply to anyone outside that small group of lovable people.
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- Vs 30 Introducing "a certain man:"** "**A certain man went down.**" This is a picture of a believer who leaves the fellowship of God and heads "**down**" from the city of God toward **Jericho** (the accursed city, Joshua 6:26, First Kings 16:34) and falls into trouble in the world (a backslider). We need to take care of our weaker brethren to help them avoid this trouble.
- The man was left "**half dead.**" This is a picture of a saved man; alive inside (regenerated, quickened) but still dead on the outside (the old man) (Eph 2:1, 4:22, Col 2:13, Rom 6:11, 7:22-23).
- Vs 31 Introducing the priest:** he's a religious person who's got the outward appearance of being someone who might help, but he has never demonstrated any true charity (love in action, giving). Truly, he's more concerned about what he can get from others. The man in the ditch had nothing to contribute, so the priest passed by.
- Vs 32 Introducing the Levite:** This is a teacher of the Law. He has an intellectual knowledge of the scriptures. He's able to identify and assess the situation and the man's condition, but he won't put his knowledge of the scriptures into practice and help the man. In fact, oftentimes he'll use the Bible to justify his own coldness. True Bible knowledge ought to teach you how to love others as yourself. Would you want someone to pass you by when you desperately needed their help?
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**Vs 33 Introducing the Samaritan:** the Samaritan was a despised neighbor of the Jews. And yet, **“he had compassion on him.”** This man had more than religion and intellectual knowledge of the scriptures; he had heart.

**Vs 34** He **“went to him”** and **“took care of him.”** If you really care about the lost or those in need, you’ll go to them and try and meet that need.

The Samaritan is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ coming down from Heaven to this Earth full of thieves and robbers, having compassion and picking us up out of the ditch when our life was wrecked and ruined, binding our wounds, and bringing us to a place where we can heal and get stronger.

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**Vs 35 Introducing the innkeeper:** he’s a picture of a servant of God willing to care for someone in the absence of the Lord Jesus; trusting that he’ll be repaid. The Samaritan said, **“When I come again, I will repay thee.”** Jesus said, **“I come quickly, and my reward is with me”** (Rev 22:12). Don’t worry about what it costs (time or money) to help someone. Minister from your heart by faith; it will be worth it.

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**36-37 “Go, and do likewise.”** 1) Go to those that are in need. 2) Don’t aim to harm them more. Try to bind up their wounds. 3) Don’t worry about the cost or inconvenience in helping someone. How would you want to be treated if you were in need?

When you stand before Jesus Christ in judgment, will your life show that you’ve been neighborly? Are you putting others ahead of yourself? Do you love them as you love yourself (Gal 5:14, Lk 6:31, Mt 7:12).

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### **CROSS-REFERENCES**

Romans 13:8-10

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James 2:8-12

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1 John 4:7

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