



The Parable of the Good Samaritan

WEEK 5 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In the fifth message of the series entitled, *Parables*, we will discuss the Parable of the Good Samaritan found in **Luke 10**.

DISCUSSION

Luke 10:25: *On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered, “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, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”*

Jesus, in turn, was testing the lawyer, and challenging his ability and willingness to live up to these two commands. He was exposing the pride in the lawyer’s heart that would ultimately block him from receiving God’s love and mercy. The lawyer knew he wasn’t living up to these commands—but couldn’t admit it. Then again, none of us can live up to Jesus’ standard. It’s by faith, not works. When the lawyer tried to justify himself, Jesus responded with the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Read **Luke 10:30-35**.

- Have you ever been like the lawyer and tried to earn your way to God? What did that look like?
- How is a “salvation by works” mindset different from a “salvation by faith” mindset? How do you think each mindset affects a person’s daily life? What do you think are the outcomes of these mindsets?

Three Principles of an Authentic Relationship with Jesus

1. **We don’t ignore the needs of others.**

Luke 10:31-32 says: *“A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.”*

Whether the priest and Levites were too busy, too scared, or too allegedly holy, they lacked compassion for their fellow brother in dire need. Those who looked like they should help the most helped the least. Those who should have shown mercy were merciless.

- How can we humble ourselves and not let pride get in the way of meeting others' needs?

2. We have a heart of compassion for others.

Luke 10:33 says: ***"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him."*** Notice what Jesus says about the Samaritan when he sees the Jew—his enemy—left for dead. The Samaritan "took pity" on the dying man. Unlike the wounded man's own countrymen, this enemy of the Jews was moved with a heart of compassion. When you're in an authentic relationship with Jesus, His heart for people becomes your heart for people.

- When you see a need, do you usually become filled with compassion and take action?
- Have you ever participated in Serve Day or a serve project? If so, share your experience and why you wanted to serve.

3. We take risks and pay a price to love others.

Luke 10:34-35 says: ***"He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'"***

The Samaritan's compassion moved him to action at great personal risk and expense. The priest and Levite probably said, "What's going to happen to me if I stop and help?"—while the Samaritan said, "What's going to happen to this man if I don't help?" Not only did the Samaritan risk his personal safety, but he also risked his reputation. Does the compassion of Jesus in your heart outweigh the reasons not to help? It's one thing to give out of our abundance to meet someone's needs, but it's another to give sacrificially for others. If we are going to love and serve like Jesus, we must be willing to take risks and give generously.

- Share a time when someone met your needs.
- Have you ever risked anything to meet someone else's needs?
- How can we grow in loving others like Jesus?

LIFE CHALLENGE

Look for opportunities this week to be a Good Samaritan, and serve others! When the Holy Spirit prompts you to meet someone's needs, be obedient and step out in faith.

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER