Full Scripture

Luke 10:25-37 (NRSV)

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. [a] “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” 27 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 given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, 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 while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” 37 He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Key Verse


Key Concept

An expert on the law asks Jesus how to inherit a good or eternal life. Jesus responds, “What is written in the law? To love your neighbor as yourself.” Who is my neighbor?
Liturgies & Prayers

CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER

God of creation, who loves us deeply and cares for all, be with us in this worship experience. Open our hearts, minds and eyes that we may hear from you, Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION OR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Psalm 22: 25 – 28

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts. Forgive us we pray. We confess that we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Renew a right spirit within us, stir up hearts afire with love to do your work and your will. Help us to walk in newness of your light, that we may truly usher in your kingdom on earth as in heaven.

BENEDICTION

And now may you go forth in the power of God’s love, sharing willingly with all God’s creation. Amen.

Sermon Helps

A few things for our scripture’s focus is on the law, care, God, loving others, and who is our neighbor? My Life Application Study Bible (LASB) shares:

1. lack of love is often easy to justify, even though it is never right:

2. our neighbor is anyone of any race, creed, or social background who is in need:

3. love means acting to meet the person’s need.

Wherever you live, needy people are close by. There is no good reason for refusing to help. (LASB)

This scripture brings to mind an applicable topic in the news for Central Ohio where “redlining laws” have created swaths of discrimination for people of color, particularly African Americans. Redlining is a practice of relegating people of color to certain areas of a city or town, creating impoverished areas where people of color are forced to live with little or no life sustaining resources such as grocery stores, outlets for recreation, etc.

Redlining creates poverty that is difficult to reverse, explaining how it helps to create generational poverty and how African Americans are most affected by redlining, followed by Latinos. Redlining is illegal. However, essentially it's a practice participated in by civic leaders (priests) and the public at large (temple assistants). Redlining shows a lack of love from those who live in communities where there are ample life giving resources.
Redlining allows those living in suburbs or communities with resources to say, “these are my neighbors who surround me, while forgetting about those negatively impacted by an unfair process.”

As Christ followers, how do we truly show love to meet the needs of those impacted by redlining? Having food pantries or other giveaways is not enough. Advocacy for discontinuing this practice and implementing a fair process when decisions are made about who will receive life sustaining resources for their communities is part of the answer, in addition to helping others have the option of living where they choose.

The LASB states that a deep seated hatred existed between Jews and Samaritans. The Jews saw themselves as pure descendants of Abraham, while the Samaritans were a mixed race produced when Jews from the northern Kingdom intermarried with other peoples after Israel’s exile.

For the legal expert, the person least likely to act correctly would be the Samaritan. In fact, he did not even say the word Samaritan in answer to Jesus’ question. This expert’s attitude betrayed his lack of the very thing that he had earlier said the law commanded—love.

Samaritans mirror African Americans; a large group of people forced into exile, who often intermixed with people in the America’s and up from slavery have often been dreaded and faced discrimination.

As people of God, why do we find difficulty in showing mercy? Who is our neighbor?

Creative Worship Elements

HYMNS

▹ 356 When We Are Living (Pues Si Vivimos)
▹ 402 Lord, I Want to be a Christian
▹ 548 Lord, You Give the Great Commission
▹ 569 We’ve A Story to Tell to the Nations
▹ 593 Here I Am, Lord
▹ 733 Marching to Zion
▹ 441 What Does the Lord Require

IMAGES AND SYMBOLS

▹ Mosaics
▹ Abstracts
▹ Hearts
▹ Statue of Justice
▹ Barren Neighborhoods
▹ Dejected or Down-Trodden People
▹ Graffiti Art
▹ Harvest
▹ Money and Wealth

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