



September 12, 2021  
“The Good Samaritan”  
Luke 10:25–37  
Pastor Gary Hamrick

The story of the Good Samaritan is found only in the gospel of Luke, and it’s probably the most familiar parable Jesus taught. In spite of how many, even secular sociologists, have used this parable to motivate people to do good deeds, it’s really not about that at all; it’s about eternal life. In this parable Jesus helps us to understand how we are to love God and love people, which comes from a personal relationship with him.

1. Pastor Gary said, “From Luke chapter ten through the end of the book of Luke, the last fifteen chapters of his book, Luke [wrote about] things that are unique to his Gospel. The majority of [the last fifteen chapters are] not found in [the Gospels] of Matthew, Mark, and John. ... [Some] Christians lean on this story to advocate for social justice, and while this story does contain elements of good deeds and helping people who are in need, it’s not about that primarily. ... [A] lot of times people read the story of the Good Samaritan and they see it as... a story about how to show random acts of kindness to people and social justice. ... There’s an element of compassion, obviously, in this story, but there is a deeper meaning to all of this, and we will see the deeper meaning when [we] ask the question that [was] asked of Jesus. ... The question is about eternal things, eternal life, [and] salvation; that’s what this is about.”
2. Pastor Gary said, “[This account] is often called a parable. ... although, interestingly, the word parable is nowhere around this to describe it as such. Seventeen times Luke [used] the word parable whenever Jesus [taught] one. This time he didn’t use the word [parable]. It’s possible that Jesus [was] actually telling a story that actually transpired, and he [wasn’t] making it up as an illustration because a parable normally would illustrate a deeper spiritual truth by using an example from everyday life. ... Either way, if it was a real-life event or just a parable, [Jesus was] trying to teach this lawyer something, and it is something that we can learn as well.”

3. Pastor Gary said, “This [man was a] lawyer who was an expert in the Mosaic Law. So, he was probably a scribe... [who] was an expert in the Old Testament Scriptures, particularly the first five books of the Bible.”
  
4. Pastor Gary said, “[The man asked this question of Jesus,] *‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’* ([Luke 10:25](#)) ... This is the approach that many people take [in that they want to know what they need to do]. ... Every world religion is about doing something, except Christianity. What Christianity teaches is that it was done for you, that Jesus died on a cross for [our] sins... You don’t have to do this, do that, do this... [The man’s answer to his question was to love God supremely and love people supremely.] ... It almost looks at first glance as if Jesus [was] making allowance for a works-based salvation. ... But we know that Jesus didn’t mean that because it would be contrary to everything else in the gospel. Then why did he say it? ... Jesus said what he did to get the guy to realize that while loving God and loving people should always be the ambition of our hearts, the reality is that if eternal life... hinges on how perfectly you love God, ... and if eternal life hinges on loving people as you love yourself, ... we are all doomed! ... Ask yourself the question: Do you really love God with every fiber of your being, heart, soul, mind, and strength? ... Are you really able to say in all honesty that you love people as you love yourself? And don’t think about lovely people... they are easy to love. Think about the unlovely people; think about the people you don’t like! ... What Jesus did was expose his heart because he couldn’t live up to the standard of the commandments he had just quoted. ... His next question should have been, ‘How do I [love God and people perfectly]?’ ... [But he didn’t ask that question]; he sought to justify himself. So, instead of humbling himself... he asked, ‘Who is my neighbor?’ ... Why wasn’t he wondering how he could or should love God? He [skipped] right by that one and [asked for a definition of who qualifies as his neighbor].”
  - a. [Deuteronomy 6:5](#) - *“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”*
  - b. [Leviticus 19:18](#) - *“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.”*
  - c. [1 John 4:20](#) - *“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”*
  
5. Jerusalem to Jericho
  - a. This would be a journey of seventeen miles.
  - b. The descent is three thousand feet.
  - c. This very dangerous route included a valley called “the valley of the shadow of death.”
    - i. [Psalm 23:4](#) - *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of*

*death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me..”*

- d. It was a common practice to travel in large caravans in order to gain more protection.

## 6. Three men

### a. The priest

- i. The first to come upon the man was a priest who passed on the opposite side of the road.
- ii. Pastor Gary said, “A priest was responsible for performing religious duties in the temple and it is likely that [he was concerned about] being ceremonially unclean [if he were to touch this man, who may be dead or perhaps bleeding].”

### b. The Levite

- i. Levites were also of the priestly order.
- ii. Every priest was a Levite, but not every Levite was a priest.
- iii. Levites were assistants to the priest, helping with sacrifices and cleaning of the temple.
- iv. Levites were responsible for worship in the temple.
- v. The Levite also passed the man on the opposite side of the road.

### c. The Samaritan

- i. There was longstanding hostility, animosity, and prejudice between Jews and Samaritans.
  - 1. In 723 B.C., when the Assyrians conquered Israel, they took thousands of Israelites captive back to Assyria.
  - 2. At the same time, Assyrians were brought to Israel.
  - 3. There was intermarriage between Jews and Assyrians, and they settled in Samaria.
  - 4. Their children were called Samaritans, and the Jews referred to them as “half-breeds.”
  - 5. The Samaritans honored and believed the first five books of the Old Testament, and they celebrated Jewish feasts; however, they worshiped at Shechem on Mt. Gerizim instead of Jerusalem.
  - 6. In Jesus’ day there were approximately one million Samaritans living in Israel.
  - 7. Today the number has dwindled to approximately eight hundred.
  - 8. The Samaritans live in Palestinian territory on the west bank of the Jordan River.
  - 9. Arabic is their primary language, except when they go to a synagogue, where they speak Hebrew.
- ii. The Samaritan was the one who was being neighborly in that he ministered to the man’s wounds, and he provided for his care.

7. If we could love perfectly, we would be perfect; since we can't, we aren't, and, therefore, we need a Savior for eternal life
  - a. Pastor Gary said, "If we really want to love like Jesus, we have to love Jesus. If you really want to learn [what it] means to love other people, you have to love Jesus. [This] is important to understand; that's where true love will flow from."
8. Loving your neighbor as yourself has been elevated to the higher command to love one another as Christ has loved you
  - a. [John 13:34](#) - "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*"
  - b. Pastor Gary said, "Why does Jesus say that this is a new commandment? [[Leviticus 19:18](#) up until this point] was the highest form of love that man could understand - loving self. ... Jesus said to love one another [as he loves.] And how are we able to do that? [You] can love like Jesus when you love Jesus. ... [Jesus] gives you the ability and capacity to love people, yes, even the unlovely... It's a supernatural love that comes from God's heart himself."
  - c. [Galatians 3:28](#) - "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*"
9. Be that neighbor who shows mercy to those who need mercy in order to obtain mercy yourself
  - a. [Matthew 5:7](#) - "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*"
  - b. Pastor Gary said, "We need to look at every person as our neighbor because anybody who needs mercy is our neighbor. [The] beautiful thing is that if we extend mercy, we will obtain mercy."

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read [Luke 10:25-37](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
3. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about [Luke 10:25-37](#). (See #1 and #2 above)
4. Spend time talking about the responsibility of a scribe.
5. Spend time talking about what grace is.
6. Read and discuss [Luke 10:25](#). (See #4 above)

7. Spend time talking about [Luke 10:28](#) and what Jesus was conveying through his answer.
8. Invite the people in your group to share if they ever experienced a time when they thought they had to do works to earn salvation.
9. Invite the people in your group to share Scripture verses that emphasize God's grace for salvation.
10. Read [Luke 10:29](#) and invite the people in your group to share of times they might have tried to justify themselves before God.
11. Read Pastor Gary's comment that "loving God and loving people should always be the ambition of our hearts" and discuss how that flows from a personal relationship with Jesus. (See #4 above)
12. Spend time talking about the route from Jerusalem to Jericho. (See #5 above)
13. Spend time talking about the three men and their responses. (See #6a-c above)
14. Invite the people in your group to share how they might respond in a similar scenario.
15. Invite the people in your group to share about a time someone was a Good Samaritan to them.
16. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comment "If we really want to love like Jesus, we have to love Jesus." (See #7 above)
17. Read [John 13:34](#) and spend time talking about the difference between "love your neighbor as yourself" and "love your neighbor as Jesus loves you."
18. Read and discuss [Galatians 3:28](#). (See #8c above)
19. Invite the people in your group to share their experiences with giving or receiving mercy.
20. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)