

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 4

NEIGHBORS

PART 3

Who should we treat as a neighbor

READ LUKE 10:30-35

INTRODUCTION

Looking at this passage we can see that being a good neighbor was not Jesus' key point. Eternal life was His concern but He chose to use the story of the good Samaritan to drive His point home and there is no reason why we cannot use what He said as a guide to living our lives in accordance to His will. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves and that is something found throughout Scripture. (Deuteronomy 6, Numbers, Proverbs, etc.) So what Jesus says here goes hand in hand with the rest of Scripture and we can certainly see that and be encouraged by it.

The road to Jerusalem from Jericho was called "the way of blood". This road was well known to be one that was dangerous to travel and very few people travelled it alone. There is a symbolism here that we don't want to miss. This man started down the road on his own. He was doing something not wise and we can be the same when we choose to go down a path of sin and try to make it on our own. He goes down this road and gets robbed and beaten. Just like the man, our sin leads us to pain and loss of the things that God desires for us. The way we travel the road of life can be defined by the actions that we take to either protect ourselves from sin or the ones that we take to indulge in it.

Jesus goes on to speak of the three people who passed by the man; a priest, a Levite and a Samaritan. The priest was not willing to stop and help, likely for the fear that the man was actually dead and he would be unclean for seven days. There was no compassion for the man because he had better things to worry about. The Levite was a brother. Someone who would be expected to treat this man as family. He passed by not wanting to get involved. It is possible he thought it was a trap and that he would be next so he kept walking in order to not get dirty. The Samaritan stopping is symbolic because this was a man that he was supposed to hate and yet, he cared for him and showed him compassion. This is the point; all people, everywhere, are our neighbors. We are to love our enemies and bless them. We are to care for them above our own needs and we are to show compassion to them. For the glory of Jesus Christ.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the story of the Good Samaritan link together with the conversation about eternal life that Christ was having in the verses previous? Why is context so important within Scripture?
2. In what ways can we relate the story of the good Samaritan to our own lives when we go astray?
3. Are there times that you have come up with reasons to not get involved in someone's life? What held you back? Would you do it differently now?
4. Why do you think Jesus used this particular story to help the lawyer see he could not succeed at loving his neighbor without God? Does God still use this story to help us?
5. What is so difficult about acknowledging doubts in our faith? Why do we hide from doubts? What about that attitude does Jesus want to change in us? Why?

WRAP UP

The father wasn't the only one who was learning at this moment. All of Jesus' disciples were aware that He was teaching them a lesson as well. He was teaching them that there are disciplines that they were to follow to be able to exercise authority that had been given to them by Him. There is training that we all must go through so that we can follow Christ closely. We must train ourselves up in the things of God so that we may experience His glory here on earth.