



“Minding the Intersections” The Good Samaritan—Luke 10:25 - 37

Getting Started . . .

Talk about a time you saw someone do something that was outside the “social norm.”

For Discussion . . .

- 1) How are we like each of the characters in the story (the victim, the priest and the Levite who should have helped but didn't, and the Samaritan who was the unlikely source of help)?
- 2) When the expert in the law asks how to inherit eternal life, Jesus responds with a story about lifestyle and action. What is the connection?
- 3) What are some needs you see in people's lives or our community that you feel are being ignored?
- 4) The priest and the Levite were too preoccupied with their idea of worship to notice the opportunity God gave them to worship by serving someone in need. Are there ways in which you allow culture or legalism to stop you from showing God's love?
- 5) What are some other ways we justify doing nothing about the needs we see around us?
- 6) The Samaritan didn't just meet the man's immediate needs; he went above and beyond. What would it look like for us to go above and beyond in meeting the needs of people in our community?

Passage Summary . . .

“Desiring to justify himself . . .” This is what prompted the parable of the Good Samaritan. A religious ruler wanted to know who he was supposed to love. He wanted Jesus to draft a preapproved list. Jesus' comeback is clear: **Your job is not to define your neighbor. Your job is to be one.** *The person you think is your enemy is the very person God wants in His family!*

Jesus is redistricting the boundaries so that they go further than the Hebrew race. In Christ, the seed of Abraham are ALL who come to Christ by faith! The true Israel, says Jesus, is beyond the genetics/ethnicity of Jewishness. Taken to its logical conclusion;

Jesus is calling into question the whole system of Temple worship, which segregated those who were Hebrews and those who were not.

Moreover, Jesus destroyed such segregation with His own body. The point of the Cross was to remove that which separated us—from one another; and foremost, from God! All have sinned and fall short of God's glory! If we say we are without sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us!

So Jesus entered earth—God in the flesh—and reenacted the parable by being bloodied and beaten, crucified, dead, and buried. The Apostle Paul asserted that Christ's death, burial, and resurrection did in fact remove and destroy the "dividing wall of hostility."

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. (Ephesians 2:14-18 NIV)

“Who is my neighbor?” is a fence that Christ has already taken down! The question is NOT: "Do I know you?" NOT, "What color are you?" NOT, "Are you of my religion?" NOT, "Are you of my family, tribe, background, language, or culture?" Rather, "If you have a need, then you are my neighbor!" Jesus gets to define the neighbor, not me. Now then, stop talking about it. Stop praying about it. Just go and do!

Notes:

Prayer . . .

Spend some time asking God to open your eyes to the needs of people around you and to ways you can be an unlikely helper to someone in your life. Ask Him to help you see the world the way He sees it. Pray that we would have a deep desire to be the unlikely help to people in our community.