

## *The Rest of the Story*

<sup>25</sup>And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup>He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” <sup>27</sup>And 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.” <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup>But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

## *The Real Question & Answer*

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### **Suggested Questions for Small Groups**

1. Who is testing whom in the story?
2. Does the lawyer seem to think he has passed the test in verse 28? How so?
3. Why does Jesus answer with a story instead of a straight answer?
4. How might one justify the actions of the priest and the Levite?
5. Why a Samaritan? What was Jesus going after with using this character?
6. If there was a good chance that the wounded person was only “playing dead” in order to trap the priest and Levite, do you think they were justified in passing by on the other side? How much does fear play in our willingness to help?
7. Why do you think the Samaritan stopped when the others “passed by on the other side”? What does it take to overcome this fear?
8. Why do you think Jesus told this parable in response to the lawyer’s question, “Who is my neighbor?”

Next Sunday, March 14, 2010: **Great Parables of Jesus**  
Travis Marsh speaking: Part 4- “The Parable of the Rich Fool”

# GREAT PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> - THE PARABLE OF  
THE GOOD SAMARITAN

### **PSALM 51**

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN NATHAN THE PROPHET WENT TO HIM, AFTER HE HAD GONE IN TO BATHSHEBA.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!  
3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
4 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your  
words and blameless in your judgment.  
5 Behold, I was brought forth in  
iniquity, and in sin did my mother  
conceive me.  
6 Behold, you delight in truth in the  
inward being, and you teach me wisdom  
in the secret heart.  
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be  
clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter  
than snow.  
8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken  
rejoice.  
9 Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
11 Cast me not away from your pres-  
ence, and take not your Holy Spirit from  
me.  
12 Restore to me the joy of your  
salvation, and uphold me with a willing  
spirit.  
13 Then I will teach transgressors your  
ways, and sinners will return to you.  
14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O  
God, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your  
righteousness.  
15 O Lord, open my lips, and my  
mouth will declare your praise.  
16 For you will not delight in sacri-  
fice, or I would give it; you will not be  
pleased with a burnt offering.  
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken  
spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O  
God, you will not despise.  
18 Do good to Zion in your good plea-  
sure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;  
19 then will you delight in right  
sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole  
burnt offerings; then bulls will be of-  
fered on your altar.

Luke 10:30-35 (ESV)

<sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance **a priest was going down that road**, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.

<sup>32</sup>So likewise **a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him**, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But **a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.** <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back."

<sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" <sup>37</sup>He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

# The Good Samaritan

## *a priest was going down that road*

The office of Priest was established during the exodus. (The Period of time when the Jews were freed from their captivity in Egypt.) God commanded Moses to set aside his brother Aaron's family as a people who would serve as a priesthood tribe; they would be known as the Levites (see below). The priests had many specific obligations and cleanliness responsibilities (Ex. 28:40-43; 29:1-37). Their main responsibility was to represent the people in dealing with God (Num. 1:47-53). The chief distinguishing characteristic of the priests was their holiness, being set apart by God to do his specific work (Lev.21). It is this separation that is brought into question by the parable of the Good Samaritan.

## *a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by*

This is one of the twelve tribes of Israel named after Jacob's son Levi (Gen. 29). This tribe was given the responsibility of the priestly order (Ex. 28). When they moved into the Promised Land they did not receive land as an inheritance (like the other tribes), instead their inheritance was the Lord. This meant they had status and authority due to their function as the priests over the nation. Their main responsibility was to preserve the relationship between the Lord and the people of God.

## *a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was*

The Samaritans are named after their particular region in Israel, Samaria. The Bible recounts their creation as a decree from the king of Assyria whereby a variety of people from various cities were sent to Samaria to reside and live (2 Kings 17:24-41). They believe they are descendants from ancient Israel and base their faith on the first five books of the Old Testament (Torah). They also incorporated other faith traditions from their home lands and combined them with their understanding of God. Due to all of this religious pluralism, but at the same time identity to the Jewish faith, there is great animosity between the Jews and Samaritans

"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. . . . There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal." ~ CS Lewis

## Showing Compassion, Mercy

**compassion**[kuhm-pash-uhn] noun  
a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.

**mercy**[mur-see] -noun  
compassionate or kindly forbearance shown toward an offender, an enemy, or other person in one's power; compassion, pity, or benevolence: Have mercy on the poor sinner.

- I. Giving compassion and mercy requires a \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 5:7).
- II. Giving compassion and mercy requires \_\_\_\_\_. (Phil. 2:1-2)
- III. Giving compassion and mercy requires \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 5:38-42)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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