

week 4 : *the one with the neighbor*

Scripture to Read: Luke 10:25-37

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

29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 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. 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, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 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. 35 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.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Summary of Luke 10:25-37

A testing question from a Jewish Bible scholar gives Jesus the opportunity to turn the tables on the questioner. By means of a moving story Jesus puts an end to the self-justifying question "Who is my neighbor?" and puts in its place the right question: "Will I be a neighbor?" The latter question forces us to consider

whether we will use the revelation of God's love and grace as a way of boosting our own sense of isolated security and purity, or whether we will see it as a call and challenge to extend that love and grace to the whole world.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." [Luke 10:36-37]

Questions for Personal Study and/or Group Discussion

- In what ways is this entire incident illustrative of what Jesus said in v.21-22?
- What does Jesus answer to the question "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" tell you about his view of the Old Testament Scriptures?
- What is behind the lawyer's rejoinder, "And who is my neighbor?"
- What light do passages such as 1 Timothy 5:3-8, Deuteronomy 15:7, Acts 6:1-7, 1 John 3:17 and Matthew 25:35ff shed on our primary responsibilities as Christians when it comes to showing mercy? What are some good ways we can show mercy to "neighbors" who are outsiders and strangers and even enemies? What next steps might you be able to take to heed "the call of the Jericho Road"?
- How is the use of a Samaritan an extreme example of a "neighbor"? Who has been a "Samaritan" in your life?
- What is the scriptural motivation for showing mercy to others? What things prevent you from being more merciful? How does grasping the grace of God to you in the gospel open your heart toward the outcasts and the unlovely? Remember that our REACHING ministry in FPC involves: (1) Making room for outsiders through long-term relationships and multiple

exposures to the Gospel and (2) committing ourselves to spend and be spent in local outreach, church planting and world missions.

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Spend a few minutes remembering anything you can from Sunday's sermon, "Jesus Loves Missions" from Luke 10:1-24. How can your children and your entire family be involved in the joy of Jesus' mission? Consider whether God might be leading your family to participate in Faith Promise. Pray for our upcoming World Mission Conference. *Remember that you can download FPC sermons from www.fpckosciusko.org or by free subscription from iTunes. Sermon audio is usually posted by Monday evening.*

Tuesday: Read Luke 10:25-37. Drawing or acting out the story might be a fun way to make the story more vivid in your child's mind.

Wednesday: Review what your children learned in Wednesday Night Connection. Spend some time together praying for FPC, its leaders, and your friends at church. Remember to pray for upcoming World Mission Conference.

Thursday: Read v.25-37 together again. Have your child(ren) act out the story. Remind them that our God is a God of grace for the whole world, and that a neighbor is anybody in need. Talk about ways that you can show mercy to people in need. Pray for needy and hurting people in our community.

Friday: God has called and equipped special servants in our church to lead the way in showing mercy to people in need. We call these special servants of sympathy and service **deacons**. Pray for FPC's deacons by name: **Scott Pickle, Sam Potts, Kerry Hudgins, Richard Briscoe, Keith Paton, Owen Oliver, Art Templeton, and William McKinley.**

Saturday: Quiz your children on Catechism questions or Bible memory verses they are learning. Pray for Phillip and Grant,

who are preaching tomorrow. Also, pray for the Sunday School teachers and for the musicians and choir members who serve us each Sunday. Remember that the **Lord's Supper** will be observed in Morning Worship.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teacher, serve others, and worship God in the service. After church, discuss with your children what they learned and what you learned.

Notes and thoughts...

What is a lawyer? Don't think of a barrister or a personal injury lawyer or a tax attorney. The Greek word is *nomikos* (Gk. *nomos* = law), but religious law, nor civil or criminal law, is in view here. Lawyers (some translations say *scribes*) were Bible scholars or religion professors who defended and interpreted Old Testament law and were local guardians of religious orthodoxy. Local scribes would preach in the synagogue according to their interpretations (Matt. 7:29; 23:1-2; Mark 2:16).

Can OnStar find me here? The route of the Jericho road, still visible today, included long stretches of rocky terrain that made it an inviting place for robbers to base the operations. The road descended about 3,200 feet from Jerusalem to Jericho along this 18-mile route.

The transformation of a name: "The Good Samaritan" has passed into folklore and along the way has imparted a new meaning to the word "Samaritan" in modern English. When Jesus used the word, it carried a truckload of religious and ethnic baggage. By contrast, think about how we automatically understand the purpose of an organization such as **Samaritan's Purse** from its name. Check out their work at their website (www.samaritanpurse.org).