

PARABLES

THE STORIES TOLD BY JESUS

The Good Samaritan- Luke 10:25-37
June 7th, 2015

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Luke 10:25-37

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. This is one of the most popular stories in all of Scripture. How is the phrase “Good Samaritan” used in our popular culture?
2. This passage actually contains 2 separate stories. Read the “first story” in verses 25-28. What is the question that the lawyer asks in verse 25? What are his motives in asking?
3. How does Jesus respond in verse 26? Why do you think he does so?
4. The lawyer answers Jesus correctly in verse 27. What do you think Jesus was hoping for after he told him “Go and do likewise” in verse 28? What realization do you think that this should have created in the lawyer?
5. Instead of acknowledging his inability to do what he said in verse 27, what does the lawyer do? What does it mean that he wanted to ‘justify himself’? How do you see this tendency in yourself?
6. Summarize the story. What do the priest and levite fail to do, and how do the actions of the Samaritan ‘reverse’ what they failed to do? Why did Jesus choose to make the hero of the story a Samaritan, a hated race to the Jewish people?
7. The first story (v.25-28) is about salvation. The second story (v.29-37) is about God-honoring conduct. How do the two stories fit together?

What is a Parable?

The word “parable” (παροβολε) comes from two Greek words, *para* which mean “alongside”, and *ballo* which means “to throw”. It literally means “throw alongside”. In a parable, something familiar is placed alongside something unfamiliar or mysterious in order to help reveal the unknown. Jesus usually used the natural world, which was well-known by His audience, to teach about the unknown and mysterious kingdom that He was ushering in.

NEXT STEPS

- Can you identify with the priest and the Levite? When have you talked yourself out of doing the right thing? Can you identify with the Samaritan? When have you seen clearly what needed to be done and acted?
- How is our culture’s understanding of this parable a misunderstanding based on the context of the parable in Luke 10? How does the lawyer’s attitude and desire to justify himself help us understand the main point that Jesus was trying to help us see?
- Jesus summary of the law is “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.” What should this reveal to you and how does it humble and push you to Christ. How is it possible for us to fulfill those commands?