

Date: **October 10, 2021**

Title: **Whose Neighbor Can I Be?**

Scripture Text: [Luke 10:25-37](#)

In today's sermon, we look at the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus tells the parable in response to a question posed by a lawyer (scribe) who was trying to test Jesus ([Luke 10:25-29](#)). The lawyer wanted to know how to inherit eternal life. Jesus turned the tables with His own question (which should be the question we ask more often); "what is written in the law?" (what does the Bible say?). The lawyer responds by quoting [Lev. 19:18](#) and [Deut. 6:5](#). Jesus commends his response and tells him to obey it, but the lawyer was hesitant and responds with the question, "who is my neighbor?". Jesus answers with the parable of the Good Samaritan. In it we are given three perspectives. Let's have a look at these perspectives.

I. The Robbers Perspective ([Luke 10:30](#))

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho, a distance of seventeen miles with a descent of more than three thousand feet in elevation, was a dangerous route through desert country. It had many places where robbers could lie in wait. The robbers were only interested in what they could get from those they robbed. Even though we may not literally rob someone, we can have the same motivation: seeking what can we get from others and only being in relationships for what we can get out of them.

- **What does [vs. 30](#) say the robbers did to the man?**
- **What are ways we can 'rob' others?**
- **How can we recognize when we are motivated by 'what's in it for me'?**
- **What do we do about it? How can spending time in God's word help?**

II. The Priest and Levite Perspective ([Luke 10:31-32](#))

A priest and a Levite encounter the robbed man and pass by on the other side of the road. We are not given the reason, but most likely they didn't want to be bothered by the inconvenience of helping him. These guys were religious leaders but were too focused on going to church and not focused on being the church.

- **What are examples of 'going to church' but not 'being the church'?**
- **What impact on the culture can Christians have with this attitude?**
- **What are ways this attitude is justified by Christians today?**
- **How can we avoid adopting this attitude ourselves?**

III. The Samaritan Perspective ([Luke 10:33-37](#))

Samaritans and Jews did not get along. They saw each other as enemies. Yet this Samaritan saw the need and responded. He was motivated and responsive because of the need, not what was in it for him or what it might cost him (time/money).

- **Describe what all the Samaritan did for the robbed man.**
- **What would be a similar scenario today?**
- **Think about someone you know that would be considered a 'Good Samaritan'. What is it about them that makes them that way?**
- **How can being a Good Samaritan impact those around you and show them Jesus?**

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