

Text: Luke 10:25-37 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan**I. The Encounter with the Lawyer**

1. The 'expert in the law' came to Jesus to 'thoroughly test Him' and asked, "*What shall I do to inherit eternal life?*"
2. Jesus didn't answer directly, but asked the 'expert' what he thought the law had to say about it.
3. His answer was correct, *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.*
 - a. His answer showed that he 'knew' what the scriptures said.
 - b. Jesus commended him for his 'knowing' but pressed the importance of 'doing' – *You have answered right, do this and you will live (v.28).*
4. Attempt at self-justification (v.29) brought the key question, "*Who is my neighbor?*"

II. Who is my Neighbor?

1. Wanting to be 'justify himself' (show himself 'just' or innocent), he asks this question.
2. Think about his question...
 - a. ...is he trying to determine 'who' God's command to love applies to? Who can be excluded?
 - b. ...is he wanting to know who is 'worth' his love, and then who would be 'worth-less'?

III. Jesus' Story to illustrate and Communicate Truth

1. Note: Jesus does not answer his question... 'Who is my neighbor,' but ends up asking a more important one.
2. The story is about a certain man, on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, who was robbed, beaten and left for dead, and the responses of three passers-by as they encountered the man.
3. At the conclusion of the story, Jesus asks the lawyer, "*So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?*"
4. The lawyer rightly answered, "*He who showed mercy on him*" (v.37).
5. It's not enough to just 'know' the right answer as indicated by Jesus' response, "*Then Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'*"

IV. Concluding Thoughts

1. It's one thing to 'know,' but life doesn't happen until we 'do' what we know.
2. Love is not theoretical, but very practical.
3. The difference between Law and Grace is this:
 - a. The Law says, 'Do this, and live.'
 - b. Grace says, 'Live, and do this.'
4. It's not so much a question of *who* is your neighbor, but more a truth of _____ a neighbor – then you will find your neighbor in the person that needs your help.