

# The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

1. Why does Jesus tell the parable of the Good Samaritan? In other words, what question is Jesus answering with his story?
2. Think about the Ten Commandments (no other gods, use of God's name, rest/worship, parents/authorities, murder, theft, etc.). What kinds of questions do we find ourselves asking that are similar to the lawyer's in verse 29? (For example, "Yes, but what really is worship? Can't I worship on the golf course just as well as in a sanctuary?") What do you think we are up to when we raise such questions?
3. What was a Samaritan? Comment on the actions of the Samaritan.
4. How does the answer to the man's question, "And who is my neighbor?" answer the larger, overarching question?
5. Love and mercy are demonstrated by sacrificial acts that benefit others. The lawyer in the story is a victim of his own self-interested thinking (trying to test Jesus and justify his own life). Rather than "passing by on the other side" of the lawyer's self-obsessed thoughts, what does Jesus do for him? In other words, how does Jesus play the role of the Good Samaritan for the lawyer?
6. Evaluate: More important than "Who is my neighbor?" is "How do I show or prove myself a neighbor to my fellow man?"
7. Agree/Disagree: Be like the Good Samaritan.