

Lesson 20: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Objective: To know that the disciples of Jesus must act like "the Good Samaritan" to those who are in need .

Background: From Luke 9:51 to 19:44, we learn that Jesus spent the last few months of His earthly life working in Judea and also in Perea which is beyond the Jordan River (see the map), where He was baptized three years earlier. It was His first appearance in Perea as a teacher and the crowd gathered around Him.

Instruction: Read Luke 10:1-42 first before you study vs. 25-37.

Let's Think: Study Lk 10:25-37 as if you were at the scene.

- 1.a. What question about eternal life did the lawyer, an expert in Mosaic law, ask Jesus, an unofficial teacher? What was it that prompted him to ask the question? (Lk10: 25).
- b. Do you suppose Jesus knew the lawyer's intention? How did Jesus answer him? Did the lawyer have to go far to find the answer to his question? (Lk10: 26).
- 2.a. What are the two commandments the lawyer gave for the answer? (Lk10: 27; Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19: 8). Can the two be separated? Why or why not?
- b. How did his question (Lk10: 25) put him on the spot in the end? (Lk10: 28) Has he accomplished his purpose? (In Greek, "do" in v. 25 connotes "once-for-all" action while in v. 28 a "continuous" one).
- 3.a. Why did the lawyer raise the second question? (Lk10: 29).
- b. What was his question that occasioned the parable of the Good Samaritan?

Please read over carefully the parable before answering the following questions.

- 4.a. How did the priest and the Levites respond to the need of the wounded man?
Are the conducts of these two respectable religious men acceptable? Why or why not?
- b. Can a religion which does not issue in active service be a genuine religion? Discuss.
- 5.a. What was it that moved the "despised" Samaritan to action? (Mk. 6:34) Explain.
- b. Can love stopped from being "felt", be a genuine love? Discuss.
- 6.a. What question did Jesus put to the lawyer at the end of the parable? (Lk10: 36) How does it differ from the lawyer's question in Lk10: 29, which called forth the parable? Explain.
- b. Did the lawyer know the answer? What duty does that knowledge bring? (Lk 10:37). How do you define "neighbor" in the light of the parable? Discuss.
- 7.a. Examine your general reaction to those who are in need. Which example are you inclined to follow: the "Priest & Levite" or the "Samaritan"? Be honest with yourself.
- b. Are you aware of someone in need that you could be a "Samaritan" to him or her?

Let's Remember: "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. " (Luke 10:27).