

St. Luke 10:25-37 (NLT)

- **25** One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"
- 26 Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"
- 27 The man answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself."
- 28 "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"
- 29 The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

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- **30** Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.
- **31** "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by.
- **32** A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.
- 33 "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.

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- **34** Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him.
- **35** The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'
- **36** "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.
- **37** The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."



1. The Priest

He was in charge of the Temple's services. The Priest saw the wounded man, lying half dead; but he perhaps being in a hurry, passed by on the other side, refusing to be bothered.

-So many of us seem to be in such a hurry, to go do what we **think** is the Lord's business, that we actually fail to do what **really** is the Lord's business.

2. The Temple's Assistant

He was a worker in the Temple, similar to that of a ministry leader, or a church staffer. Like the Priest, he too saw this wounded man in distress.

- However, unlike the Priest, he actually stopped and looked at him, but just like the Priest, he too failed to help, by passing by on the other side.
- As believers, we need to know that analyzing the situation of someone in need is not enough; we have a responsibility to do something about it.

3. The Good Samaritan

This is a man that was despised and detested by religious leaders of that day. In fact, he was **not welcomed in the Temple**. However, according to V.33, this Samaritan did what the other two religious leaders refused to do. He was moved by compassion and **not only stopped and looked at the man in need, but he also helped him**. He picked him up, took him to a place to recover. He also paid for this man's recovery in advance.

-Sometimes, those we least suspect or respect do the most to help those that are in need.

Jesus concluded this parable by asking this very important question:

"Which one of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man that fell among thieves?"

The answer is,

"He that showed mercy on him."