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THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10 : 25-37

INTRODUCTION

Where are my glasses? I was at work the other day and I was trying to look for my glasses. I looked inside the drawer, on my desk, inside my jacket, inside the case, inside my backpack until I finally realized I was already wearing my glasses. Has this ever happened to you?

What we are going to study right now is a parable that has been greatly loved, greatly known but most of the time people missed the point of the parable. The point of the parable was just right in front of us but just like me we were looking at different places.

The parable I am talking about is the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Luke 10: 25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered, "'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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Prayer

Definition of a Parable : earthly stories with heavenly meaning

Most of the time when you ask people “what is the MEANING behind the Parable of the Good Samaritan?”, people will say, “We need to help those in need.” This is the reason why we call people who help others a “good Samaritan”. That may be one of the lessons and it’s good to help those in need but that is not the “main lesson” of the parable.

I. MAIN POINT

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

1. The man who asked the question – *“...an expert in the law”*

KJV version : “lawyer” nomikos

There were a multitude of laws in the scriptures, multiplied with a multitude of interpretations and a multitude of applications by rabbis over the ages. The Talmud, a compilation of these interpretations and applications, is several volumes long. This is the reason why they needed this “lawyers”.

What they do : they have no political powers like the Pharisees but they are counsellors to the Pharisees. The ones who wanted to trap Jesus were the Pharisees.

This is the reason why they sent these lawyers to test him.

2. The motive behind the question *“...stood up to test Jesus...”*

Greek “test” ekpeirazo – to test thoroughly; tempt

3. The main question *“what must I do to inherit eternal life?”*

Observation : Society today is only concerned on the here and now. But we must be concerned to where we will spend “eternity” – meaning no end... forever.

James 4: 13 Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Clear : The Bible is clear that we will spend eternity in two places only –either heaven or hell. **Read** *Luke 16:19-31*

The main point of the parable : What can we do to have eternal life?

II. MAN'S PROBLEM

Observe : Our Lord could have answered him directly but knowing the motive behind the question and knowing he is an expert of the law asked him back, OUR LORD REPLIED

Read v. 26 *"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"*

27 He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind (Deut 6:5); and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' (Lev 18:19)

Expound : Jesus is full of wisdom. The one who asked him is an expert in the Law so He asked him back, "What is written in the Law?" (Torah, Pentateuch, first five books of the Bible)

It's just like saying to him, "You are the expert, you tell me."

Expound : *How do you read it?*

This one can connote two things :

- a.) What do you understand that the law says in order to inherit eternal life?
- b.) Or literal how do you read it?

Connect Next verse : v. 27 Hebrews call it "shema"

Deuteronomy 6: 4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[a] 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

History : (show image) Jews wrote it down and tied it in their arms, put it in a box (teffilin) on their forehead and their doorposts when God is saying, whatever you do, whatever you think about, in your going in and out of the house...you should love the Lord your God with all...

Now, people can tie, remind ourselves on what the Bible says but the most important thing is to follow it.

THE PROBLEM ON WHY PEOPLE WILL NOT INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE.

1. The first problem : Our failure to follow the law

v. 28 You have answered correctly," (ref Mk 12:28-34 and Mt 22:34-39) Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

Look at what the expert said :

27 He answered, "'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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself."

Question : Who have loved God with all of their heart (emotions), all of their soul (will), all of their strength and all of their mind (motives)? NONE

Question : Who have loved their neighbour as themselves all the time? NONE

Remember : These are commands. That's why Jesus said, *"Do this and you will live"* But it is impossible to do this always and all the time.

Remember, **the problem is not the law, it is our failure to follow the law and that's the problem.**

But you might say, well I follow the law most of the time. Look at what the Bible says:
Galatians 3: 10 For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." (refer also to Deut 27:26)

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

This now brings us to the second problem.

2. The second problem : Our pride not to admit our failure.

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Explain : Remember this expert of the law asked this question publicly (in a crowd). **To admit his failure is to destroy his credibility.**

It's like me saying, "Do not commit adultery." And then you see me committing adultery. The lawyer can't afford to say in front of people, "Well, no one can love the Lord with ALL..." That was a checkmate. So instead of getting embarrassed which he already knows, he wanted to *"justify himself"*.

When the wise thing to do is admit his sinfulness.

Usually, this is the problem of people who consider themselves "good" and think they earn God's favor by being "good." The reason these people say they are "good" people is because they compare themselves with others.

Look at another parable Jesus told.

Luke 18: 9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13 *"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'*

14 *"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."*

We think we can go to heaven because at least we're "gooder" than others compared to rapists, pedophiles, robbers and etc.

III. MEANING OF THE PARABLE

Two things to remember AGAIN :

- a. This is a PARABLE and Jesus is telling this to emphasize a point.
- b. Remember that the main question is, *"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead

Expound : (show image)

- a.) *"going down"* –Jerusalem is around 9000 ft. above sea level
- b.) *"Jerusalem to Jericho"* – implying the man is a Jew.
- c.) *"when he fell into the hands of robbers"* - that road is notorious simply because there are many caves where people can hide and pounce.
- d.) *"stripped him of his clothes, beat him"* (pummelled several times in the original language) and went away, leaving him half dead."

Here, there will be three people that will encounter the man beaten up.

Remember, when our Lord tells a story or a parable, there is meaning in everything and answering the main question : *"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

THINGS WE DO OR THINK THAT WILL INHERIT US ETERNAL LIFE.

Lesson 1 : It is not by performing our religious duties that we will have eternal life.

31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

Expound then explain: (remember the main question)

In Jesus' time, the priests live in Jericho and they go to Jerusalem to perform their duties at the temple. So it's either, the priest just came from Jerusalem which shows he has just performed his religious duties or just came from Jericho and he's going to Jerusalem to perform his duties.

Lesson 2 : It is not because of our heritage or tradition that we will have eternal life.

32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

Expound then explain : (remember the main question)

- a.) Levite – one of the twelve tribes of Israel (Levi) 3rd son of Jacob
- b.) No land in Canaan...the Lord is their inheritance. They have a special task – to perform priestly duties and to take care of the needs of the temple – security, administration, service to the priests
- c.) Remember : All priests are Levites but not all Levites are priests
Side track: If you have any blemish or imperfection, you are not “fit” to be a priest e.g. cataract, lost limb, or even “pango”

We think we will have eternal life because we have the right heritage or tradition. You were born in a Christian family or you are following all the Christian traditions and etc.

NOW IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE FOR THE PRIEST AND LEVITE NOT TO HELP. Why?

Remember, the person is half-dead and they don't want to risk checking out if he is dead already or not and the law says,

Numbers 19: 11 "Whoever touches a human corpse will be unclean for seven days."

Remember if they are on their way to perform their religious duties, they cannot perform it if they touch a dead person because they have become unclean. Or if they just came performing religious duties, if they touch this person, they will be unclean.

Illustration : It's just like you going to work, you have a nice dress on, you go out for the day and you are commuting, waiting at the bus stop and it's raining hard and a car just speeds by and douses you with water from the street.

Lesson 3 : It is not by being a good person.

33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins^[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

Expound then explain :

- a.) *“Samaritan”* – enemies of the Jews, “gentile dogs” – intermarried, not pure In fact, a lot of Jews will not pass through Samaria so that they would not be unclean.

- b.) *"Bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine"* – he gave him his own provisions to take care of him – oil for light and cooking, wine for drink and medicine (1Tim 5:23)

GAVE HIM HIS OWN PROVISION.

- c.) *"...took him to an inn"* (greek word is "pandocheion", this is the only time this is used in the Bible), these kinds of inn are notorious for extortion and opportunism to travelers.
- d.) *"took care of him"* - gave him his time, that was overnight.
- e.) *"next day, he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper"*
denarii in KJV -Payment to an inn was around 1/12th of a denarii for food and lodging each day. **So he paid for this man's food and lodging for 24 days.**

WHO WILL GIVE HIS OWN ONE MONTH'S SALARY TO HELP OTHERS?

- f.) *"Look after him, "he said, and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have."* – it's like giving a blank check to an extortionist or opportunist.

WHO WILL GIVE HIS DEBIT CARD AND CREDIT CARD WITH THE PIN NUMBER TO ASK OTHERS TO HELP SOMEONE HE DOESN'T KNOW AND HERE TO A KNOWN EXTORTIONIST (MANGGAGANTSO).

What is the Lord showing us here?

This is how we should *"love your neighbour as yourself"*. This is how we love ourselves. We'll do everything to provide for our needs and comfort even if we incur a lot of debt just so us or our loved ones are healed.

IMPORTANT NOTE : Now, that's easy to do for ourselves but the command is..."love your neighbour" and the question of the lawyer is "who is my neighbour",

In short, the lawyer was asking whom should you love that you will do everything to provide for their needs and comfort even to the point of sacrificing a great deal of our time and money. We can do this for ourselves, for our friends or for our loved ones!!!

Remember : The Samaritan did this to a Jew. Christ is saying if the Samaritan can do to this to an enemy, you Jewish folks should do this too.

In short, who can do this? Provide for all of the needs, give all of our money, give time and open ourselves to extortion for the sake of a "STRANGER" AND "AN ENEMY" ---- "ALL THE TIME".

The answer : NO ONE.

THAT'S WHY JESUS SAID...

36"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" 37The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Jesus knows in the mind of the expert of the law, THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! The expert knows he has been checkmated. That's why you don't see any retort or reply back from the lawyer and if a lawyer who makes a living out of arguments (opening his mouth) does not argue back anymore...that's a big thing! They were trying to trap Jesus (test) but what happened is they were the ones that were tested in the heart.

THIS WAS A MIC DROP FOR JESUS!

One has to perfectly love God and his neighbors and perfectly obey this command all the time to enter the kingdom of God. Then what is the purpose of the law?

Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

CONCLUSION

So now, who then can have eternal life?

Let us allow the Lord to answer this.

Read Matthew 19:16-26 (Mark 10:17-30; Luke 18:15-27)

Matthew 19: 6 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" 17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments." 18 "Which ones?" he inquired. Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" 20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. 23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" 26 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

FOMO : Let me teach you an acronym that one time my son said and I asked what it meant. I believe the young people use this today. The acronym is F.O.M.O. which means Fear of Missing Out.

Now that you have gotten the point of the Parable of the Good Samaritan, that you can't do anything to get eternal life, I fear that for some of you are missing out on eternal life. When it comes to eternal life, I pray that you will have FOMO. Why? It's because YOLO, (You Only Live Once). And the Bible says

Hebrews 9:27 ... it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment

The question is, where are you going after you die? Is it eternal life with God or eternal damnation?

Emphasize” v. 26...with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

It is through God’s grace through Jesus Christ who died on the cross for us.

Ephesians 2: 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

If you are already a Christian who believes that Jesus is the only way to heaven and by grace, please continue to point, bring and invite people to know Christ.

If you are a person here who still thinks that being religious, being good, or you up in a Christian home will give you eternal life, you are dead wrong. Jesus is the only way to heaven.

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

S.G.D.