

# **Fairfield Baptist Church**

## **Hamilton**

**03.07.20221**

### **Introduction**

Last week – Ross

Luke 10:17-24

Joy and Rejoicing

‘The Lord wants our joy to be in who He is and that our names are written in heaven.’

Continue with our studies in Luke 10

Today we come to the story of the Good Samaritan

One of the best-known Parables in the Gospels

One of the most loved parables we have.

Let’s read it to refresh our minds and bring us up to date.

### **Bible Reading**

**Luke 10:30-37**

**NIV**

### **The Parable of the Good Samaritan**

<sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii<sup>[c]</sup> 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.’

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

## **Understanding the Parable of the Good Samaritan**

What is the intent of the parable?

Why did Jesus tell this story?

Who is the most important person in the parable?

Wait on. I am making a big mistake.

What should I be doing before I ask any of these sorts of questions?

Understand what the purpose of parables is.

All parables are salvation stories

There are about 40 of them

This Jesus doing personal evangelism

The intent of the parable – its meaning

It is important to see scripture in context

We have to look at the context and not just look at the parable.

Some even call this one of the most misunderstood of the parables.

We need to see what I have left out.

When we do we see another person comes into the picture. Yes someone else is talking with Jesus. - ‘an expert in the Law’

I suggest this other person is the reason Jesus tells the story.

Looking at the context means going back to verse 25 and seeing the setting - the situation - where Jesus was when told this story.

Did anyone see I had left out some verses, between where Ross was preaching last week and the story I have just read to you?

## **Bible Reading**

**Luke 10:25-29                      NIV**

### **The Most Important Commandment**

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

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

<sup>27</sup> 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'<sup>[a]</sup>; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'<sup>[b]</sup>"

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

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

### **The Most Important Commandment**

"An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus."

The expert in the law = an expert in the Old Testament scriptures.

He was wanting to trap Jesus – to try Him out.

He was looking for a way to test Jesus knowledge and actions.

How do we test Jesus today?

Do we trust Him every day or do we want to challenge Him?

Do we want to challenge Jesus teaching at times?

"Teacher – What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Notice the name he gives to Jesus - he calls him Teacher = rabbi.

In one sense he is acknowledging who Jesus is, yet in another he is making a mockery of who Jesus is. Just trying to test Jesus – show him up.

Jesus answer is amazing. We can learn from it in our talking with people.

Jesus answers with two questions.

"What is written in the law?"

How do you read it?"

Jesus takes him back to the law where he is an expert and asks him to say how the law answers his own question.

The law sometimes refers to the first five books in the Old Testament.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy – Tora.

The expert in the law replied to Jesus.

**"Love the Lord your God** with all your heart  
with all your soul  
with all your strength  
with all your mind  
and **love your neighbour as yourself."**

Here the expert goes back to the law as Jesus asked him to and quotes it to Jesus.

He goes to back to Duet 6:5 - Lets read verses 4 – 9.

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9** N I V

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>5</sup> **Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.** <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

**Leviticus 19:18** N I V

<sup>18</sup> "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people but **love your neighbour as yourself.** I am the LORD.

The expert comes forward with the most important commandment in the OT scriptures. Love God – Love Others.

Keep the Law of God and you will live.

We can go to Matthew 5. The Beatitudes, The fulfilment of the Law.

Go to chapters 5 -6 -7 – 99% all the words of Jesus himself.

Then the learned expert in Old Testament scriptures having been challenged by Jesus from the very writings he knows well, he try's to justify himself and further test Jesus and asks Jesus.

### **"Who is my neighbour?"**

You can hear the attitude of the man in his question.

He thought he had passed the 'who is my neighbour' question.

Really, he just shows his self-righteous attitude and way of thinking.

He is trying to justify himself, to defend himself against the implications of Jesus words.

Luke shows us twice     v25 – 'to test Jesus'

   v29 - 'to justify himself'

The prevailing opinion among the scribes and the Pharisees was that one's neighbours were the righteous alone.

According to them, the wicked – including rank sinners (such as tax collectors and prostitutes) Gentiles and especially Samaritan were to be hated because they were enemies of God.

They cited Pas 139:21-22 to justify their position.

Listen to what this Psalm says,

21 Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,  
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?

22 I have nothing but hatred for them;  
I count them my enemies.

This was what their attitude should have been.

"The truly righteous persons hatred for sinners is a righteous abhorrence of all that is base and corrupt.

The truly righteous persons hatred for sinners is not a spiteful, personal loathing of individuals.

Godly hatred for sin is marked by a broken-hearted grieving over the condition of the sinner and this is tempered by genuine love.

The pharisees had elevated hostility towards the wicked to the status of a virtue, in effect nullifying the second great commandment.

Jesus answer to the expert in the law gets rid of the pharisaical excuse for hating one's enemies.

The parable is to crush his pride.

The parable is to challenge the man's thinking.

Jesus a Jew. The learned man, a Jew.

Jesus now tells the story with one of the lead characters a Samaritan.

The Samaritan was out of Jewish thinking.

The Jewish mind had a very narrow view. They were righteous and every one else, especially the Samaritans were not at all.

The Samaritan was a half breed from mixed marriages. Mixed Jewish and Gentile ancestry. They were half Jew half something else, from when the Jews were in captivity.

So the pure breed strict Jew would have nothing to do with a Samaritan.

## **The Parable of the Good Samaritan**

Jesus in reply to the question from the learned Jew tells the parable.

It is interesting to note the accuracy of the detail of the story.

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho".

This is the Jericho of the N.T. not the Jericho of the O.T.

17mils from Jerusalem, some 3000ft drop.

Down a very steep roadway/pathway.

A rocky terrain where it was easy for men to hide and wait for travellers to come past.

Jericho was a large town. An oasis. A traders stop on a trade rout.

The man coming down the road is presumed to be a Jewish person.

It is not said in the parable, but in the context of the story told by Jesus it seems that this was the case.

He is 'attacked by robbers who 'stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.'

He was really delt to. 'Beating him' = constant verb – they continued to beat him.

His clothing was taken. His possessions were taken. Anything he had was taken. He was beaten up and left as half dead on the roadside.

Three men came down the road and saw the man on the ground.

**The Priest** - one expected to show love others.

One from a self-righteous system

No love for man, makes us question his love for God.

Avoided the wounded man, probably a fellow Jew.

Not allowed to touch a dead body.

Rituals of cleaning and purification.

Leviticus 19:34 N I V

<sup>34</sup> The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

Proverbs 37:21

The wicked borrow and do not repay,

But the righteous give generously.

## **The Levite**

Helpers in the temple

Descendants of Levi but not of Aaron.

They assisted the priests who were Aaron's descendants.

Two members of the clergy

No love for man – no love for God shown by their actions

## **Samaritan**

They were not loved at all by the Jews

Inter married with the gentiles – half breed traitors.

Their name was used as an insult.

John 8:48 - The Jews accuse Jesus.

"Aren't we right in saying you are a Samaritan and are demon-possessed."

Yet the Samaritan, does everything right – cared for the man.

Took pity – had compassion

Lavish love.

Treated his wounds

Oil	-soothing and healing	Food preparation
Wine	-antiseptic	1 <sup>st</sup> aid kit

Put on his own donkey – he walked to the inn

Then pays for all his care.

Two denarii = a silver coin the value of a day's wage for a Roman soldier.

These coins in Jesus' day were minted under Tiberius the emperor's authority since only he could issue gold or silver coins. One side bore the image of his face and the other featured the engraving of him sitting on his throne in priestly robes. The Jews considered such images to be idolatry, forbidden by the second commandment.

The emperor's image was stamped on the coins.

God's image is stamped on a person.

Is God's image stamped on our hearts?

Look after the man the Samaritan he said and when I return, I will reimburse you.

Must have been known by the inn keeper.

Who does this? This is not just social justice at work.

Jesus takes the man's question v29 "Who is my neighbour?" and brings it back on the learned man. V36

"which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

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



Jesus last comment – **“Go and do likewise”**

**“Go and have Mercy**

Do you love like that?

Do I love like that?

Jesus wrapped up His teaching with the command that His followers were to live like that true neighbour.

**What about us showing mercy in our relationships with each other?**

What are our attitudes to each other?

We need to show mercy, forgiveness, grace.

Are we ready to not hold a grudge?

**What about showing mercy to those we do not even know?**

Ill – People begging on our streets today.

Man near the café up the road. – “meal mates”

Man near the petrol station

**The meaning of the parable overall.**

Righteousness is the issue.

If we love God perfectly – we will love people perfectly.

If our love for God is half hearted – our love for people will be half hearted.

Do we fully understand the Gospel message?

The Gospel is the message that transforms lives.

**Grace and Mercy**

“The Lord is gracious and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great **mercy**. The Lord is good to all: and his tender **mercies** are over all his works.” **Psalm 145:8-9**

"How kind the Lord is! How good he is!  
So merciful, this God is ours." **Psalm 116:5**

### **Definitions and Differences**

The Greek word often used for mercy is eleos (pity, compassion)  
The Greek word often used for grace is charis(favour).

Mercy is the act of withholding deserved punishment.  
Grace is the act of endowing unmerited favour.

In His mercy, God does not give us punishment we deserve - Hell.  
In His grace, God gives us the gift we do not deserve - Heaven.

Mercy and grace are two sides of a coin – and the coin is love.  
Mercy is a compassionate love to the weak.  
Grace is a generous love to the unworthy.

Humans are weak and unworthy – we all need God's mercy and grace.  
Mercy takes us to the path of forgiveness.  
Grace leads us to the path reconciliation.

"There is a difference between grace and mercy.  
Mercy is the decision of God not to punish us.  
But grace is the decision of God to save and bless us."  
Max Lucado

"Grace is getting what you don't deserve.  
Mercy is not getting what you do deserve.  
A joyful marriage requires generous portion of both."

## **Mercy There Was Great**

**Years I Spent In Vanity And Pride,  
Caring Not My Lord Was Crucified,  
Knowing Not It Was For Me He Died  
On Calvary.**

**Mercy There Was Great  
And Grace Was Free,  
Pardon There Was Multiplied To Me,  
There My Burdened Soul  
Found Liberty – At Calvary.**

By God's Word At Last  
My Sin I Learned –  
Then I Trembled At  
The Law I'd Spurned,  
'Til My Guilty Soul Imploring Turned  
To Calvary

Now I've Given To Jesus Everything,  
Now I Gladly Own Him As My King,  
Now My Raptured Soul Can Only Sing  
To Calvary.

**Oh The Love That Drew  
Salvation's Plan!  
Oh The Grace  
That Brought It Down To Man!  
Oh The Mighty Gulf That God Did Span  
At Calvary.**

**Mercy There Was Great  
And Grace Was Free,  
Pardon There Was Multiplied To Me,  
There My Burdened Soul  
Found Liberty – At Calvary.**

**Reading**    1 Peter 1: 3-9.        1 Peter 2:22-25