

Who Is My Neighbor?

Luke 10:25-37

Introduction:

- A. The exchange between Jesus and the lawyer.
 - 1. Lawyer's good question and bad motive (v. 25).
 - 2. Jesus' responsive question (v. 26).
 - 3. Lawyer's correct answer (vv. 27, 28).
 - 4. Lawyer's quibble (v.29)
 - a. Next door? Across town? Fellow Jew? Who?
 - b. cf. "How long is long?"; "What is modest?"
- B. The story of the "Good Samaritan."
 - 1. Three philosophies illustrated:
 - a. Thieves: "What is yours is mine, so I will take it."
 - b. Priest & Levite: "What is mine is mine, so I will keep it."
 - c. Samaritan: "What is mine is yours, so I will share it."
 - d. Beat 'em up; Pass 'em up; Pick 'em up.
 - 2. All with equal opportunity – one responded.
 - 3. Lawyer forced to answer own quibble.
- C. Who is my neighbor? Or To whom can I be a neighbor?

Discussion:

- I. Anyone That I Have Opportunity to Help with His *Physical* Needs.**
 - A. Samaritan's personal touch. (vv. 34-35)
 - B. The hungry, thirsty, naked, and sick. (Matt. 25:33-46; 10:42; Jas. 5:14)
 - C. The tired and weary. (Gen. 18:1-5; Heb. 13:2)
- II. Anyone That I Have Opportunity to Help with His *Material* Needs.**
 - A. Samaritan's generosity to a stranger. (v. 35).
 - B. Orphan's and widows. (Jas. 1:27).
 - C. Family members (1 Tim. 5:8)
 - D. Fellows Christians (1 John 3:17,18; Phil 4:16, 17).
- III. Anyone That I Have Opportunity to Help with His *Emotional* Needs.**
 - A. Death of loved one. (Cf. John 11).
 - B. Personal and family traumas.
 - 1. Health problems.
 - 2. Job loss.
 - 3. Divorce.
 - 4. Wayward child.
 - C. Church problems (cf. 2 Tim. 4:16,17)
 - D. Job's so-called comforters.
- IV. Anyone That I Have Opportunity to Help with His *Spiritual* Needs.**
 - A. One never saved. (Cf. Phillip and the eunuch – Acts 8).
 - B. One fallen away. (Jas. 5:19-20).
 - C. The weak, discourage and unruly among us (1 Thess. 5:14)
 - D. The untaught brother. (Acts 18:24-26).

Conclusion:

- A. Samaritan could not help every victim in the world – could and did help this one.
- B. I can not attend to every need or every person in the world – can to those that cross my path daily.