



Luke 10:25-37 New Revised Standard Version

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “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.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”



Being inquisitive is as natural as being human. We all have questions which rush through our minds day after day. This is true not only as we try to grasp general information, but even from the vantage

point of faith. We want to know the meaning of life, how God works in our lives, and what life is like beyond this one.

The lawyer in today's text had a few questions of his own for Jesus. He wanted to know what was necessary to obtain eternal life and then who constituted a neighbor in his life. To the man's inquiry, Jesus provided the well-known "Parable of the Good Samaritan." While the label "Good Samaritan" may be positive in our world today, that was far from the case in the first-century. Jews and Samaritans disliked each other as much, if not more so, than today's sports rivalries. That is what made Jesus' teaching so astonishing to his audience then and continues to unsettle us even today.

The Samaritan showed mercy to the Jewish man even when the man's "own people" passed by on the other side. He did not view the situation as a matter of "us versus them," but rather set aside personal feelings and bias to address the man's needs. Too often, we have allowed personal bias to cloud our vision of ministry. We pick and choose the people we like or toward whom we wish to be neighborly, while ostracizing others. Jesus' words to the lawyer indicate that this simply cannot be. As the children's song goes, "Red and yellow, black, brown, and white, they are precious in his sight." They should be just as precious to us as well!

Thoughts to Consider:

1. If we limit our neighbors, we have missed the point of our mission.
2. Our uniformed biases proclaim judgment in advance.
3. When we pre-judge, we deny the image of God in others.

Prayer Pebble: Lord, give me your eyes to see others as people created in your image just like me.