

The Good Samaritan

Family Service



Sermon Text

Luke 10:25-37



Big Idea

Before the good Samaritan is a picture of what we are to be, he is first a picture of what Jesus already is for us. We are there with the man on the ground in desperate need of God's mercy and compassion and love. And, in Christ, such things are freely given!

The mission of Mercy Hill Kids is to partner with parents to reach and raise the next generation for Christ. We don't see ourselves as the chief evangelists or disciple-makers in your kids' lives. According to God's word, you are! And we exist to partner with you and help you in that.

(1) Wrong Questions (v. 29)

You sense the falseness in this man's question from the beginning, don't you? It's as if he's starting to feel something of the comprehensiveness and the weight of this call and he's trying desperately to wiggle free from it. He's trying to whittle it down into something manageable, something he feels like he's already doing. The clear implication behind his question here is: "Okay, okay, I have to love my neighbor, but surely I don't have to love all people! Just tell me who these 'neighbors' of mine are and I guess I'll love them well enough."

(2) Right Answers (vv. 30-37)

Surely, we are right to think that a man who has given his life to serve God in the temple would be most ready and willing to serve a wounded traveler on the roadside. And yet both the Priest and the Levite "pass . . . by on the other side" (vv. 31b, 32b). But this Samaritan, on the other hand, loves his neighbor well. "[W]hen he saw him, he had compassion." (v. 33). And that compassion moved him, not away from this poor man, but towards him. His love compelled him. He put his plans on hold. He got low and bound up and washed this man's wounds. He set him on his own animal. "I'll walk, you ride." He led him to an inn where the man could rest and revive. He "took care of him" (v. 34). He opened up his wallet. He promised to come back and settle any accounts. This was not a momentary act of compassion. He was committed to this man's recovery. And he did all of this for a man who commentators agree was most certainly a Jew—a man who, were he in good health, would've considered him an enemy.

(3) Gospel Pictures

What we have in this parable, before anything else, then, is a picture of the gospel. And the astounding thing is that, while the parable itself is beautiful *picture* of God's love for us in Jesus, the *reality* that comes to us in the gospel is incomparably greater. Every little detail we pick up here in the parable is amplified as we connect the dots forward to the gospel of Jesus. Jesus is Himself the essence of this neighbor love called for in this parable. He takes it all to its most ultimate and sublime expression. And if we would own up to our place with that man in the dirt and open ourselves up to the love of God for us in Christ, we would find ourselves able to go out and do likewise more and more!

Reflection Questions



- If you have kids involved in the Mercy Hill Kids ministry, have you made use of the Gospel Project resources (Big Picture Cards and Activity Pages) to engage your kids further during the week? If so, what do you do? How has it gone? If not, why not? What more can you do to reach your kids with the gospel? How can we help?
- Describe the last time you caught yourself trying to justify yourself. What was going on in your heart? Why were you doing it? What were you wanting? What were you afraid of? Why is it so hard to just say sorry and admit we need help?
- How has the love of Jesus for you moved you to love others lately? Describe one way it influenced your life this past week. Identify one way it should influence your life this next week.