

PARABLE: GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-37

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: The religious scholar and Jesus; in the parable: the traveler and the Samaritan

Key-location: Other side of the River Jordan from Jerusalem, in the province of Perea

Key-repetitions:

- Questions: A religious scholar tried to trap Jesus with a question (Lk 10:25); Jesus answered the scholar with a question (Lk 10:26); the scholar wanted to justify himself for asking Jesus a question when he already knew the answer; he asked Jesus another question (Lk 10:29); Jesus concluded his parable by asking the scholar a question (Lk 10:36).
- Reaction to traveler: robbers (Lk 10:30); priest (Lk 10:31); Levite (Lk 10:32); Samaritan (Lk 10:33-35).

Key-attitudes:

- Conflict between religious scholar and Jesus.
- Religious scholar's deceitfulness when he tried to trap Jesus with a question.
- Scholar's embarrassment when caught asking a question when he knew the answer.
- Scholar's embarrassment when Jesus asked him a question after telling the parable.

Within the parable:

- Robbers' violence.
- Priest and Levite's indifference.
- Samaritan's compassion.

Initial-situation:

The third year of Jesus' public ministry began at the time King Herod ordered the murder of John the Baptist. The people felt Jesus deceived them when he refused to lead a revolution against King Herod and the Romans. On one occasion, Jesus sent seventy-two men by pairs to heal the sick, and tell people that the Kingdom of God is near. The seventy-two returned and reported to Jesus.

Initial-problem:

A religious scholar tried to trap Jesus with a question.

Final-situation:

The scholar answered Jesus' question and said that the neighbor was the man who showed mercy to the injured man.

BIBLE STORY

A religious scholar stood up and tried to trap Jesus with a question, "Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law of Moses? How do you interpret it?"

The scholar 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."

Jesus replied, "You answered correctly. Do this and you'll live."

The scholar wanted to justify himself for asking a question to which he already knew the answer. He asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (Lk 10:25-29).

Jesus replied with a parable, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and was attacked by robbers. The robbers stripped the victim of his clothes, beat him and left him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road. When the priest saw the robbed man, he passed by on the other side of the road. A Levite, who worked at the temple, also came to the place, saw the robbed man, and passed by on the other side of the road.

"A Samaritan traveling the road came upon the robbed man. He saw the victim and took pity on him. The Samaritan went to the victim, bandaged his wounds and poured oil and wine onto his wounds. The Samaritan then lifted the injured man onto his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day the Samaritan gave the innkeeper two silver coins and told him, 'Look after him. When I return, I'll reimburse you for any extra expense you may have incurred.'"

Jesus asked the religious scholar, "What do you think? Which of these three was a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?"

The religious scholar replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told the religious scholar, "Go and do likewise" (Lk 10:30-37).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1. | What catches your attention in the story? | 5. | How did the characters face their problems? |
| 2. | Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand? | 6. | How have you faced similar problems? |
| 3. | Who are the main characters in the story? | 7. | Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you? |
| 4. | What problems did the characters face? | 8. | What does the story tell about God? |

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Jesus answer the scholar with a story instead of a straight logical answer?
2. Why did Jesus tell Jews, who were prejudiced against Samaritans, a story that made a Samaritan an example of brotherly love?

3. How did the following people react to the injured man:
 - Scholar of Law?
 - Robbers?
 - Priest and Levite?
 - Innkeeper?
 - Samaritan?
4. How should a Christian react to people in need?
5. Among the people you know, to whom would you give a Good Samaritan Award?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **The follower of Jesus should willingly share with needy people.** The parable of the Good Samaritan reveals three attitudes towards possessions (Lk 10:25-37):
 - The thief: what's yours is mine, and I will take it.
 - The priest and Levite: what's mine is mine, and I will keep it.
 - The Samaritan: what's mine is mine, but I will share it.
2. **Followers of Jesus should help one another.** The parable of the Good Samaritan reveals different attitudes towards needy people (Lk 10:25-37). The wounded man was seen:
 - By the scholar of Law, as a story to discuss.
 - By the robbers, as a target to exploit.
 - By the priest and the Levite, as trouble to avoid.
 - By the innkeeper, as a client to serve for payment.
 - By the Samaritan, as a person to help.
3. **Religious activity is not the same thing as serving God.** The priest and the Levite were very active in the Jewish religion; however, they were negative examples in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37).
4. **Our neighbor is anyone who is in need, and whose needs we are able to meet.** Jesus taught that our neighbor can be somebody outside of our group, race or religion (Lk 10:25-37).
5. **The person with racial prejudices can see neither the hated people's virtue nor his own group's defects.** In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:29-37), in addition to being Jews, the priest and the Levite were expected to observe the law of charity. The Samaritan as a foreigner and heretic, was expected to show hate, not kindness. The scholar could not even say, "Samaritan," in answer to Jesus' question (Lk 10:37).

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. **Chant:**

- Tell the story one time.
- Teach listeners the chant: "Help! Help! Robbers beat me up and I can't get up." Instruct them that they start by shouting the chant and each time they say it they decrease their volume.
- Give listeners a hand signal that is a sign for them to repeat the chant. Retell the story, giving listeners the signal to chant at the appropriate places.

Teller:

Jesus replied with a parable, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and was attacked by robbers. The robbers stripped the victim, beat him and left him half-dead."

Chant: "

Help! Help! Robbers beat me up and I can't get up.

Teller:

"A priest happened to be going down the same road; when he saw the robbed man, he passed by on the other side of the road."

Chant:

Help! Help! Robbers beat me up and I can't get up.

Teller:

"A Levite also came to the place, saw the robbed man and passed by on the other side of the road."

Chant:

Help! Help! Robbers beat me up and I can't get up.

Teller:

"A Samaritan traveling the road came upon the robbed man."

Chant:

Help! Help! Robbers beat me up and I can't get up.

Teller:

"The Samaritan saw the victim and took pity on him. The Samaritan went to the victim, bandaged his wounds, and poured oil and wine onto his wounds. The Samaritan then lifted the injured man onto his donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day the Samaritan gave the innkeeper two silver coins and told him, "Look after him. When I return, I'll reimburse you for any extra expense you may have incurred."

2. **Role-playing Drama:**

Have different volunteers tell the story from the viewpoint of:

- Robbers.
- Priest or Levite.
- Samaritan.
- Inn keeper.