

Week 3: The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

The Parables of Jesus

Week 1 – **Understanding Parables**

INTRO: Matthew 13:35

Week 2 – **The Prodigal Son**

LOSTNESS: Luke 15:11-32

Week 3 – **The Good Samaritan**

GOODNESS: Luke 10:25-37

Week 4 – **The Two Debtors**

SINFULNESS: Luke 7:36-50

Week 5 – **The Workers in the Vineyard**

FAIRNESS: Matthew 20:1-16

Luke 10:25-28

Preamble Round 1

(1)	One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”.
(2)	“What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?”
(2’)	“‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”
(1’)	“Right!” “Do this and you will live!”

The expert was assuming that God’s measure of obedience was a sliding scale. He was asking Jesus to define the “threshold” requirements for satisfying the demands of the Law.

Leading experts in religious law taught that eternal life was achieved through keeping the Law of Moses.

Jesus agreed with the expert of the Law by saying he must completely fulfill the Law of Moses, perfectly.

Luke 10:29-30a

Preamble Round 2

(1) The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"
Jesus replied with a story …

The expert was looking to justify himself as he earnestly sought to obey the Law.

Many experts of the Law interpreted "neighbor" as a "fellow Israelite", not a Gentile.

Jesus replied with a parable to contrast the lawyer's definition of neighbor and God's.

Luke 18:18-21

Similar Passage Regarding “Inheriting Eternal Life”

A religious leader asked Jesus this question: “Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “Only God is truly good.

But to answer your question, you know the commandments, …”

The man replied,

“I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”

As with the expert of the Law (Luke 10), the religious leader was asking Jesus the same question. He wanted Jesus to define the “threshold” requirements for satisfying the demands of the Law.

Jesus called into question the leader’s definition of goodness.
Jesus wanted to contrast God’s perfect goodness with the leader’s imperfect goodness (or good-enoughness).

The religious leader enthusiastically claimed to be obedient to the Law his entire life.

Jewish Olam Ha-Ba

Emergence of “World to Come” Doctrine



“They that fear the Lord shall rise to life eternal.”

“The one who acquires the words of Torah, has acquired life in the World to Come.”

“The King of the universe will raise us up to live again forever, because we are dying for his laws.”

Inter-Testamental Period (420 BC to Early 1st Century)

Psalms of Solomon (1st Century BC) , 2 Maccabees (2nd Century BC) ,
Mishnah Sanhedrin (2nd Century BC) , Mishnah Pirkei Avot (2nd Century BC)

Luke 10:30

Parable of the Good Samaritan

(1) A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was coined the “ascent of blood” because it was dangerous to travel.

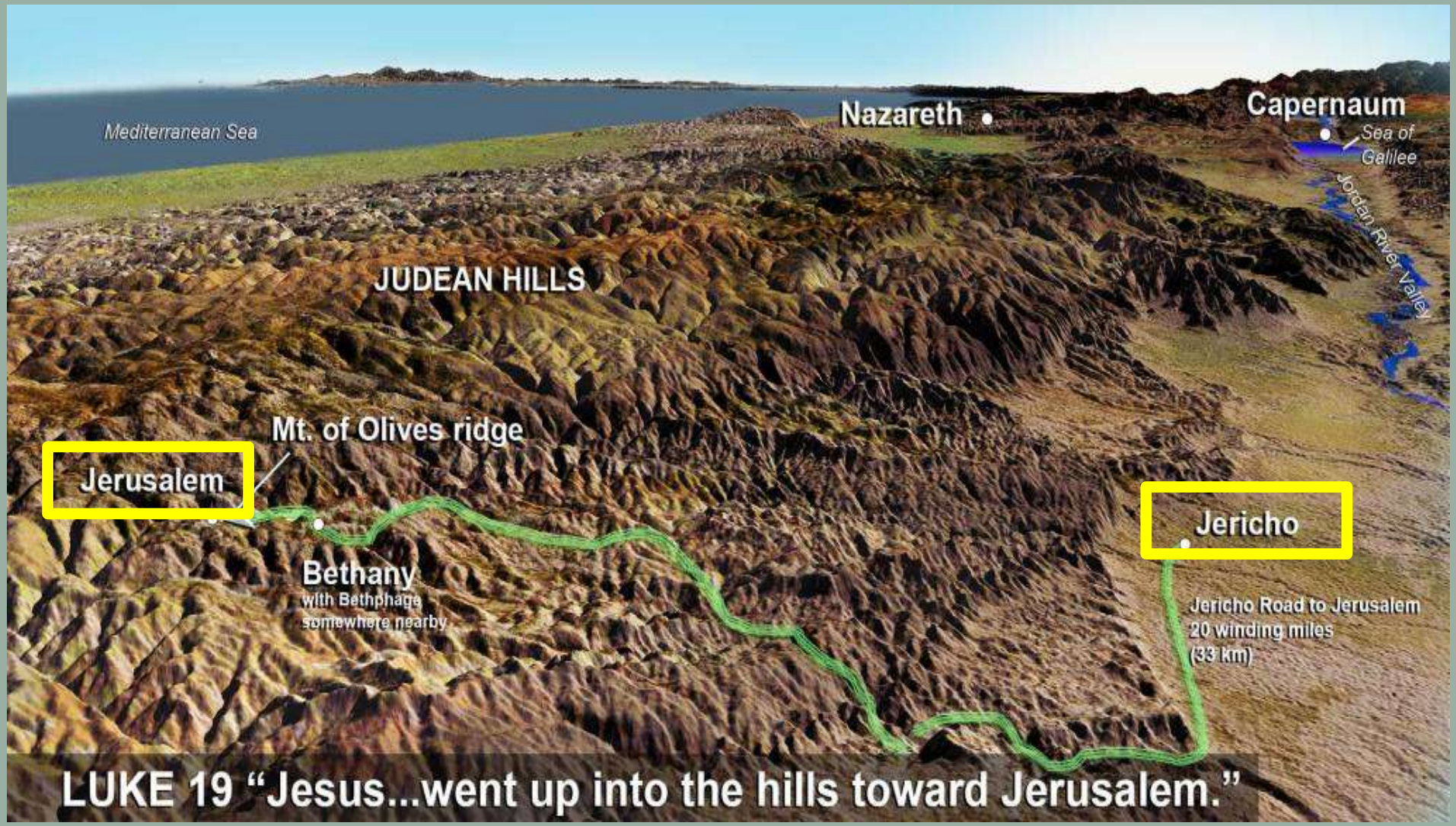
Because the man was stripped and likely unconscious, he was unidentifiable. The man was reduced to a mere human in need.

Onlookers would have assumed he was a Jew given the location of the incident.

The symbolism here is that the man had no money and was left for dead. He had no hope of survival except for outside intervention.

Luke 10:30

Down to Jericho



Luke 10:31

Parable of the Good Samaritan

(2) By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road. And passed him by.

Priests were direct descendants of Aaron from the tribe of Levi.
They were responsible for sacrifices and Temple rituals.
They served in the Temple for two weeks each year.

Priests were required to maintain ritual purity at all times, no exceptions.
The priest had a legal right to pass by.

For the priest to regain ritual purity would have been both costly and time consuming.

Therefore, the priest maintained a 6-foot distance. Any closer he would have been automatically defiled.

Luke 10:32

Parable of the Good Samaritan

(3) Likewise, a Temple assistant walked over. And looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

Temple assistances were from the tribe of Levi but were not direct descendants of Aaron. They served as Temple guards, musicians, grounds keepers, and assisted priest in their duties.

Temple assistants were only expected to maintain ritual cleanliness during their Temple duties.

The Temple assistant walked within a 6-foot distance of the man. Seeing the fatal condition the man was in, he decided to walk by.

Luke 10:33

Parable of the Good Samaritan

(4,4') "Then a despised Samaritan came along,
and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.

Samaritans were Israelites who intermarried with Assyrian colonists.

Jews regarded Samaritans as impure, heretical, totally worthless.

Unlike the priest and the assistant, the Samaritan saw the man's fatal condition. He immediately and instinctively showed compassion by saving the man from certain death.

Luke 10:34-35

Parable of the Good Samaritan

(3') Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine, and bandaged them.

(2') Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him.

(1') The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'

The Samaritan was prepared with olive oil, wine, and bandages.

Putting the Jewish man on his donkey, the Samaritan was forced to travel at a slow pace putting himself at greater risk.

Two silver coins represented two day's wages, an estimated three weeks of lodging.

The Samaritan took complete responsibility for the Jewish man's recovery, start to finish.

Luke 10:34-35

Preamble Part 2 (Conclusion)

(2) "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?"

(2') "The one who showed him mercy."

(1') "Yes, now go and do the same."

Jesus' definition of "neighbor" was anyone in need.

The expert of the Law was still unwilling to refer to the man as a Samaritan. He still harbored resentment toward Samaritans.

The “Neighbor” Test

Religious Leaders

Given their role as religious leaders,
they would have been **expected** to help.

The religious leaders **failed** the neighbor test.

Samaritans

Given the Samaritan's social & religious standing,
he would have been the **least expected** to help.

The Samaritan **passed** the neighbor test.

God's Way to Eternal Life

If we are **not good enough** to fully satisfy the moral requirements of the Law of Moses through human effort,
then how can we inherit eternal life?

This is the same question
the listeners were asking
in Luke 18:26.

God's Way to Eternal Life

No one can ever be made right with God
by doing what the law commands.

The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

For everyone has sinned;
we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

But now God has shown us a way to be made right
with him without keeping the requirements of the law.

We are made right with God
by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.

People are made right with God when they believe that
Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.

Romans 3:20-25 (NLT) - Excerpts

WORKSHEET

Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37(NLT)

1	A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They *stripped* him of his clothes, beat him up, and *left him* half dead beside the road.	COME DO GO	Robbed, Left for Dead
2	[31] "By chance a **priest** *came* along. But when he saw the man lying there, he *crossed* to the other side of the road. And *passed* him by.	COME DO GO	Rejected
3	[32] Likewise, a Temple assistant [**Levite**] *walked* over. And *looked* at him lying there, but he also *passed* by on the other side.	COME DO GO	Rejected
4, 4'	[33] "Then a despised **Samaritan came** along, and when he **saw** the man, he **felt** compassion for him.	COME DO DO	Loved
3'	[34] **Going** over to him, the Samaritan **soothed** his wounds with olive oil and wine, and **bandaged** them.	COME DO DO	Helped
2'	Then he **put** the man on his own donkey and **took** him to an inn, where he **took** care of him.	DO DO DO	Helped
1'	[35] The next day he **handed** the innkeeper two silver coins, **telling** him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll **pay** you the next time I'm here.'	DO DO DO	Restored, Made Alive

Parable Worksheet

Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

GOODNESS

Main Characters:

Main Events/Scenes:

Turning Point:

Historical-Cultural Gaps (THEN ↔ NOW):

Earthly & Heavenly Parallels:

Earthly Principle & Heavenly Principle:

Summary

The parable of the Good Samaritan
is a wonderful illustration
of God's perfect goodness toward us.

It contrasts how our goodness falls short
of God's moral requirements.

Fortunately, God provided a way
to be made right with him
by putting our faith in Jesus Christ.