

## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### A Perfect Stranger Loves Like a Neighbor August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

(Luke 10:25-37)

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.

“Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

<sup>27</sup> He 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’<sup>[e]</sup>; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>[d]</sup>”

<sup>28</sup> “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

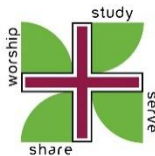
<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii<sup>[e]</sup> and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

1. What’s the picture that initially comes to mind when you think of your neighbors?
2. The expert in the law asks, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” How would you answer that question for yourself?
3. Take a look at the answer the expert responds with in v. 27. What is interesting and unexpected about Jesus’ response to his answer?
4. **Agree or Disagree:** It was possible for the expert in the law to justify himself by doing what Jesus had said.
5. For what reasons is it surprising that the Priest and Levite pass by the helpless man? When you consider your own heart and schedule, for what reasons is it not surprising that they passed by?
6. Tally up in modern money just how much the Good Samaritan would have spent of his own money on this wounded stranger. (Hint: A denarius is about a day’s wages.) Quantify the commitment the Samaritan was making to this man.
7. At the end, when Jesus asks which one was a neighbor, the expert can’t even bring himself to say the word, “Samaritan”. What tendencies might that reveal in our stubborn hearts?
8. In what ways does Jesus’ parable redefine our answer to the question, “Who is my neighbor?”
9. When looking at Jesus’ entire life, in what ways does Jesus demonstrate the love of a true neighbor?



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