

THE PARABLES OF JESUS
“THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN”

LUKE 10: 25-37

THE MAJOR ELEMENTS WHICH MAKE UP THIS STORY CAN BE FOUND DAILY IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND ON INTERNET NEWS SITES. IN THIS STORY THE LORD JESUS TALKED ABOUT CRIME, VIOLENCE, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AND HATRED. WE CERTAINLY HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF ALL OF THESE THINGS. IN THIS PARABLE WE SEE NEGLECT AND INDIFFERENCE, BUT WE ALSO SEE LOVE AND MERCY. WE KNOW WHAT THIS PARABLE SAYS, BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN, ESPECIALLY FOR OUR DAY AND TIME? LET US CONSIDER ALL OF THE PERSON INVOLVED AND THEIR DIFFERENT ATTITUDES.

THE THIEVES: HE WAS A VICTIM TO EXPLOIT

WHEN THE THIEVES SAW THIS MAN TRAVELING DOWN THE ROAD THEY SAW A PERSON THEY COULD EXPLOIT. GOD GAVE US *THINGS* TO USE AND *PEOPLE* TO LOVE. UNFORTUNATELY, OUR SOCIETY TODAY GETS THAT BACKWARD! IF WE TAKE FROM OTHERS, BUT FAIL TO GIVE IN SOME WAY, THEN WE ARE EXPLOITING. JESUS NEVER EXPLOITED A PERSON. HE ALWAYS GAVE BACK MORE THAN HE ASKED. HE ALWAYS LEFT THEM IN BETTER SHAPE THAN WHEN HE FOUND THEM. WE MUST DO THE SAME.

THE PRIEST AND THE LEVITE: HE WAS A NUISANCE TO AVOID

IT SEEMS AS IF BOTH OF THESE MEN RATIONALIZED THAT TOUCHING OR HELPING THIS MAN WOULD HAVE VIOLATED SOME RELIGIOUS RITE OR LAW TO WHICH THEY STRICTLY ADHERED. BUT WHAT GOOD WAS THEIR RELIGION IF IT PROHIBITED THEM FROM HELPING SOMEONE? WHAT GOOD IS OUR CHRISTIANITY IF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN SOMEONE ELSE'S NEEDS? IS THAT HOW JESUS PRACTICED CHRISTIANITY? I THINK WE ALL KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT? WE CAN'T ALWAYS BE LOOKING AT PEOPLE AS “NUISANCES” TO AVOID.

THE LAWYER: HE WAS A PROBLEM TO DISCUSS

THE LAWYER WAS AN EXPERT IN THE LAW, BUT HE WANTS JESUS TO DISCUSS, “WELL, EXACTLY WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?” HE WAS REALLY HOPING TO TRIP UP JESUS WITH THIS QUESTION, BUT JESUS WAS TOO SMART FOR HIM. ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO GET NOTHING DONE IS TO DISCUSS IT. WE HAVE MEETINGS, SEMINARS, AND CONFERENCES ALL THE TIME, BUT THE NEED IS FOR ACTION! THE LAWYER WANTED TO BE ABSTRACT, BUT JESUS WANTED TO BE SPECIFIC. WE MAKE A MISTAKE WHEN WE SUBSTITUTE LAW FOR LOVE!

THE INNKEEPER: HE WAS A CUSTOMER TO SERVE

WHILE THIS MAN CANNOT BE FAULTED FOR NOT GOING ON THE ROAD TO HELP THE MAN, HE CAN BE USED TO ILLUSTRATE THAT THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE WHO HELP OTHERS SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS THEIR JOB AND THEY ARE PAID TO DO IT. THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT LIFT A FINGER TO HELP SOMEONE UNTIL THEY HAVE HEARD THE RIGHT ANSWER TO THEIR QUESTION, “WHAT AM I GOING TO GET OUT OF IT?” MOTIVE HAS A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH MINISTRY. IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO A GOOD THING WITH A BAD MOTIVE. IF I AS YOUR PASTOR SERVE YOU *ONLY* BECAUSE I AM PAID TO DO IT, THEN I AM TREATING YOU LIKE A CUSTOMER, NOT A PERSON WHO NEEDS LOVE AND CARE. NONE OF US HERE THIS MORNING SHOULD SERVE THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE WITH AN OPPORTUNIST ATTITUDE.

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



THE SAMARITAN: HE WAS A NEIGHBOR TO SERVE

I AM SURE THAT JESUS' LISTENERS WERE STARTLED TO HEAR THAT A "SAMARITAN" WAS THE HERO OF THIS STORY. HE HAD MORE THAN JUST PASSING PITY. THE GREEK WORD INDICATES THAT HE WAS DEEPLY MOVED AND STIRRED. IT IS THIS KIND OF LOVE WHICH MOVES US TO SERVE OTHERS AND NOT THINK OF OURSELVES. IT IS THE SAME KIND OF COMPASSION WHICH GOD HAS FOR US. WE MUST DO SOMETHING PRACTICAL TO HELP OTHERS, JUST LIKE GOD DID WHEN HE SENT JESUS FOR US.

APPLICATION

ONE ACT OF MINISTRY WHICH IS MOTIVATED BY CHRISTIAN COMPASSION PLEASURES THE LORD, HELPS THE NEEDY, AND IT ALSO BLESSES ONE MINISTERING. THE RESULTS GO ON FOREVER.