

Lesson 3 – The Good Samaritan

Text: Luke 10

Main Characters: God, Jesus, the seventy disciples, lawyer, Mary, Martha

Key Passages:

- Luke 10:16 – Jesus taught that a rejection of one of his disciples was a rejection of himself and God.
- Luke 10:36-37 – Jesus taught that one’s neighbor is one who can be helped and shown mercy.

Main Storyline:

After sending the apostles, Jesus also sent out seventy other disciples in pairs to go into all the cities and places that he intended to go. He warned them that they were being sent out as lambs among wolves. They were not to carry money or additional supplies, but they were to go into one house at each city they visit and accept whatever food and drink they would offer. Jesus told them that, if those of the city did welcome them, they should heal the sick there and teach them that the kingdom of God had come near to them.

On the other hand, if a city did not receive the disciples, they were to wipe the dust off their feet as a sign against the city. Despite their rejection of the disciples, they were still to announce that the kingdom of God had come near to them. Jesus warned, however, that it would be better to have been in Sodom than to be in those cities at the time of judgment. He condemned some cities in the area that had apparently rejected Jesus despite the miracles that had been performed there. Jesus said, “He who hears you hears me, he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

The seventy disciples went out and returned with joy, as apparently they had been very successful, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name.” Jesus was delighted to hear about their success, and he reassured them that they would not be harmed by the power of the enemy. He told them that they should rejoice because their names were written in heaven. Jesus also praised and thanked God for revealing these things to the humble people. He also privately told his disciples that they were blessed since they had seen and heard things which many prophets and kings had wanted to see and hear but had not.

Around that time, a certain lawyer stood up to test Jesus with a question, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus asked him what the law said about it. The lawyer answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus told him that he was correct; if he obeyed those commandments, he would live. The lawyer, realizing his test had failed, wanted to justify himself and asked, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus used a parable to explain the answer: a man going from Jerusalem to Jericho was robbed and beaten by thieves until he was half dead. By chance, a priest came down the same road. When the priest saw the man, he passed by on the other side. Later, a Levite also came down the same road. When the Levite saw the man, he, too, passed by on the other side. Finally, a Samaritan came down the road. When he saw the man, he had compassion for him and took care of him. He cleaned the man’s wounds and bandaged him, put the man on his animal, and brought him to an inn. The next day, the Samaritan paid the innkeeper to continue to take care of the man, and if he needed more money, the Samaritan promised to repay the innkeeper when he returned. Jesus asked, “So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” The lawyer responded, “He who showed mercy on him.” Jesus instructed him to do likewise.

Later, Jesus arrived at the house of a woman named Martha. She had a sister, Mary, who sat at Jesus’ feet and listened to his teaching while Martha was distracted by making preparations (likely for food). Martha complained to Jesus that Mary was not helping her. Jesus told Martha that she was worried about many things, but only one thing was needed, which Mary had chosen. He would not take that away from Mary.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) We may be rejected when we teach about God, but it is truly God who is being rejected (1 Samuel 8:7).
- 2.) Anyone whom we have an opportunity to help should be considered and treated as a neighbor.
- 3.) Focusing on spiritual things is more important than focusing on physical things (Romans 8:5ff).