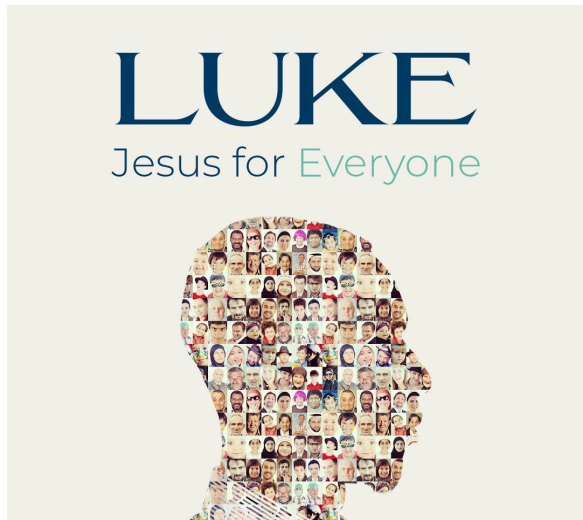


LUKE: SERVICE FOR EVERYONE

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Dain Smith, Discipleship Minister



Luke 10:25-37

(25) Then behold, a certain lawyer stood up in order to test Jesus, saying, "Teacher, what must one do to inherit eternal life? (26) Then Jesus said to him, "What has been written in the law? How do you read it?" (27) Then after Jesus responded, he said; "you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and in your whole soul and with your whole strength and with your whole mind and your neighbor as yourself." (28) Then Jesus said to him, "correctly you responded. Produce this and you will live." (29) Then desiring to vindicate himself he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (30) Thinking a moment, Jesus said, "a certain person went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits, who even after they stripped him and beat him bruised, they left, leaving him half dead. (31) By chance, a certain priest was coming down that way, and

behold, he passed him by on the opposite side. (32) Then similarly, also a levite, when he came to the place, behold, even he passed by on the opposite side. (33) Then a certain Samaritan making a way came by him, and behold he showed compassion, (34) and after he went to him he bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. Then, putting him on his own animal, he led him to an inn and took care of him. (35) And on the next day, taking out two denarii he gave them to the inn-keeper, and he said, "Take care of him, and whatever you spend further, I myself will pay to you when I return." (36) "Who of these three do you think was a neighbor to the one who had come under attack from the bandits?" (37) Then he said, "the one who produced mercy for him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and you yourself produce similarly."

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. What character or characters do you most empathize with in this story? What about these characters stands out to you? What about them do you like?
3. This story begins with a lawyer asking Jesus questions. However, most people don't realize that this "lawyer" is not

South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4343 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington KY 40513

859-223-1433 southelkhorncc.org

like a modern-day lawyer, but rather someone who studies “the Law,” Torah, or Jewish Scripture. It is better to understand this person, not as a lawyer, but as a Bible scholar. So, this is not a legal dispute, but it is an inter-religious dialogue between two religious leaders about their shared sacred texts. How does this change the story for you? Do we find ourselves arguing over the Scriptures with other religious people today? What are the things you see and hear people arguing about, and how can we help people have healthy conversations about their faith and Scripture?

4. In verse 27, the lawyer, or bible scholar, quotes Leviticus 19:18, and then he asks Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” He does this because in Leviticus 19, the “neighbor” is limited to Israelites (19:2 and 19:17). He is essentially asking Jesus, “Do you know this passage of Scripture and its context?” But, by doing this, he is using the Bible to limit our neighbors, or who is worthy of God’s love and mercy. In what ways do you see people defining and limiting who their neighbor is in our modern context? In what ways do people limit who is worthy of God’s love in today’s world?
5. Jesus’s story of the Good Samaritan defines “the neighbor” for the lawyer or Bible scholar. Similarly, a Jewish text

from before the time of Jesus, named the “Testament of Issachar,” says this: “5:1 Keep the Torah of God, my children, and acquire simplicity, walking without guile and not interfering with the commandments of the LORD or with the affairs of your neighbor. 5:2 But love the LORD and your neighbor; show mercy to the poor and the weak.” In what ways does Jesus’s story about the Good Samaritan in vv. 30–37 agree with Testament of Issachar 5:1–2? How does this change the teaching of Jesus, and what does it say about Jesus, his own Jewish faith, and how he defines the neighbor?

6. In Luke 10, Jesus tells a story about a good neighbor as a response to the Lawyer’s question, “Who is my neighbor?” Tell a story from your own life when someone was a good neighbor to you or one of your friends, and explain how it is similar to the Good Samaritan story.
7. What does love and mercy look like in our modern world, and what practical steps can we take to produce love and mercy in our world?