

## Group/Individual Study

Series - The Greatest Stories Ever Told: Parable of the Good Samaritan

Passages: Luke 10:25-37

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 8/5

1. Read Luke 10:25-37. What is the religious leader's motivation in coming to Jesus? How do you think the question he asks fits into his desire to "test" Jesus?
2. Compare the answer the expert in the law gives in Luke 10:27 to the answer Jesus gave to a similar question in Matthew 22:37-40. What do you see? Since our religious leader in Luke 10 had given such a good answer to his own question, why do you think he still felt the need to "justify himself" (Luke 10:29)?
3. What do you think was behind the religious experts question, "And who is my neighbor?" Do modern Christians ever try to get around the teachings of Jesus that seem hard by trying to make out like they are too complicated or impractical? Give an example or two.
4. Why do you think the priest and the Levite passed by the wounded traveler? What types of things do Christians today get so wrapped up in that we miss doing the simple basics of love and compassion?
5. One would assume that the priest and the Levite in the story had a much more complete "theology" of compassion and helping others than the Samaritan did. Yet Jesus made the Samaritan the hero of the story. What relationship do you think Jesus holds between "right theology" and practical application and obedience? How can we hold this relationship more like Jesus does?
6. Sometimes Christians get overwhelmed -- "there are so many wounded travelers and I can't help them all; how do I know who God wants me to stop for??" How have you seen the Holy Spirit lead you to particular wounded travelers that God wanted you to stop for?
7. Jesus finishes the parable with a question of His own. "Which of these three do you think proved neighbor to the wounded traveler?" Basically Jesus lets the wounded traveler answer the question, "Who is my neighbor" by saying "My neighbor is the one who stopped for me." Are there "wounded travelers" who might point to you if asked, "Who has proved neighbor to you by stopping for you?" Explain.