

For the love of the lawyer.

Key passage: Luke 10:25-37

It is important to read Scripture carefully, especially if we want to capture what is to be applied. Read carefully, we see the love Jesus has for this lawyer, the distance He will go to save a soul.

Verse 25 – great question

Verse 26 – great answer

Verse 27 – The lawyer ‘knew’ the answers to Jesus’ questions – he could quote them, probably sing them, could tick the boxes but tried to trick the Author of salvation who loved him enough to take him not just to the ‘law’ but the heart of Scripture, by drawing him into that truth. Jesus knows what we think; He knows what we think before we think because He alone knows the intention/motivation of our thoughts – Jesus went after his heart, for relationship with him, eternally.

See Deuteronomy 4:6-8; Leviticus 19:18, 33. The Lawyer knew these and was commended for what he knew – ‘Correct. Do ‘this’ and you will live’ (Matthew 5:43-48). Wanting to justify just how much he needed to ‘do this’ he asks, ‘who is my neighbour?’

Perhaps he is asking ‘who is deserving of my attention and affection?’ or ‘how can I show compassion for someone and disregard their status?’

Pure Christianity helps without expectation of return. A new heart (a heart of flesh – Ezekiel 36:26-27) holds a new way of thinking. How can I show compassion with no bias, no favourites? This passage is one of grace not law – Jesus influencing this lost (though an expert in the law) man’s soul by bringing him to lost position ... the law is as a school master showing our need for salvation. There is a depth in this (extreme and concentrated) passage that God wants us to understand.

The priest, the Levite? If the injured man was our close relative (Leviticus 21:2), a son or daughter? Would that change whether we touched/helped them? Who would I stop for? What is now clean/unclean? What do we eat (Romans 14:17); what do we ‘touch’ (Acts 19:13-15... v35-36 (no favourites) – Holy Spirit poured out on all – v44-46).

The priest could rattle off the Word; the Levites could sing it – it is the Good Samaritan we imitate – one loathed at the time, avoided). Galatians 2:6 – God shows no favouritism. He wants to extend family and He loves the broken, the Samaritan, the lawyer, the priest, the Levite, you, and me.

Jesus asked the lawyer ‘who was neighbour?’ The lawyer most likely couldn’t mouth the word ‘Samaritan’ – Jesus targeting the heart of the lawyer. There is no salvation with repentance – an understanding that though we may tick some knowledge boxes, we may have missed the mark.

The Samaritan took pity, compassion went to the man – showed hospitality (thoughtful preparation) – went to him, bandaged (touched) him, poured on oil and wine (ready), placed him on his own donkey, brought him to an inn, provided for him into the future... this is God extending family.

Jesus set example for us – Luke 9 ... there are right and good things to serve - same chapter with ‘loving God’... If we truly get the love of God right – that first love means that everyone else, we love will be loved even more greatly. The lawyer was quick to say he loved God and people, but he himself was missing that first love that Jesus had already alluded to in the previous chapter – prior to going to the Cross.

John 13 ... washing the feet of the one who would betray Him... the most holy One attending to what was considered the lowest ranking task of a servant) – see v15-17 – ‘I’ve set you an example’... ‘now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them’ ... we love and we serve without bias, choosing the better thing is to love like Christ, this is demonstrated in our love and care for our neighbour, all people without bias, without regard for status, extending family. Critical observation to see Jesus trying to lift the blinders, going after the heart of this lawyer.