



How do we follow Jesus?
Worship * Connect * Serve

Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” ²⁷He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” ²⁸“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” ²⁹But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³²So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’” ³⁶“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” ³⁷The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

- True Worship Involves Loving God

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV)

- Loving God always involves loving others, like the witness found in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Who were the Samaritans?

- Descendants of the Northern Israelites
- Not Jewish, not Gentile
- Jews believed Samaritans to be unclean
- Jews and Samaritans were not friends; they were rivals

Verse 25

- The religious leader “tests” Jesus.
- *What must I do to inherit eternal life?*

Verse 26

- We see that God's love is encompassed in full and complete love. Loving God and loving others.

Verse 27

- The first time we see "Love of God" and "Love of Neighbor" combined to make one sentence, one thought, one love.
- True **worship**, or love of God, cannot be separated from **connect**, or loving one's neighbor.

Verse 29

- The religious leader is looking for a technical definition of "neighbor."
- Jesus declines legality and speaks to the heart of the matter.

Parable of the Good Samaritan Teaches Us

- Worship and Connect always involved love in practice.
- We must be willing to cross "our roads" to connect with our neighbor.
- Our neighbor is the person God puts in our path. Neighbors are not limited to geography, culture, race, religion, or anything else.
- Connect means we need to both **be** a neighbor to others AND **allow others** to be a neighbor to us. We need each other.
- We have to be willing to have our plans interrupted by God's plans. We must keep our eyes and hearts open.
- Unlike the Priest or Levite, the Samaritan was moved with pity and did something about it.
- The question is not, "Who is my neighbor?" Rather, we must ask ourselves, "**Are we acting like a neighbor?**"
- Being a neighbor makes us connected to God and others.

"And so the first question that the priest asked, the first question that the Levite asked was, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But then the Good Samaritan came by, and he reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him."

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.