

## How Do We Inherit Eternal Life

Luke 10:25-37

Within this Scripture, there are three questions,

1. What, verse 25,
2. Who, verse 29,
3. Which, verse 36,

good solid procrastination questions, and Satan is still using them!

Some facts about this Scripture: -

Perhaps one of the most widely quoted parables, yet looked at more deeply, it reveals two distinct teachings,

1. A Law expert, wanted to know how to inherit eternal life. Jesus answered the question with a question, 'What did the Law say'?
2. The second teaching is the plain teaching that a person, like the Samaritan, should help others in need, verse 37.

First and foremost, neither the law expert or the Samaritan are named. We don't need their names - we need to know and understand their actions.

Let us look a little more deeply at our 'law expert'. A lawyer - a Jewish teacher or doctor of the Law, and therefore regarded as an expert in the Mosaic Law knew the Mosaic Law, for he was able to quote Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, which immediately exposed him as a fraud.

Therefore, the lawyer, by trying to tempt (test) Jesus, demonstrated the power of Satan within his life.

Satan had tried tempting Jesus before, Matthew 4:3, 5-6, & 8-9, and FAILED, Matthew 4:4, 7, & 10

Therefore, with regard to his question, '...what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' he had answered our Lord's question correctly.

'...thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might', Deuteronomy 6:5,

'...but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD', Leviticus 19:18.

What then was his motive? He knew the law, and was able to quote it. Was he possibly looking for an easier way to be obedient to the Law? It is at this point that things go from bad to worse, for instead of asking the Lord to help to be obedient, he tried to justify himself with 'Who is my neighbour?'

Why should Jesus continue with His Teaching to the lawyer with a Parable of a Good Samaritan?

We need to look at the complete picture here to get an understanding,

1. The central figure in the parable is an injured man, and most probably a Jew,
2. The Samaritans were of a mixed Jewish and Gentile ancestry, and were, therefore, not popular with the Jews,
3. The road from Jerusalem to Jericho is some 17 miles,
4. It is a twisty road, and descends about 3,000 feet,
5. Because of its terrain, it is extensively used by robber, and therefore dangerous,
6. It is also used extensively by the priests to get to Jerusalem.
7. Thus they, according to Leviticus 19:18, should have been the first to stop and offer assistance.

It was a Samaritan who stopped - an outcast, he,

1. Helped and protected a half-dead man,
2. Dressed the injured man's injuries,
3. Took him to an inn for comfort and protection,
4. Financially covered all the injured man's expenses.

I can see the 'Sunday Christian', I can also see the 'True Christian' with 'Christ in him'. Where do you fit in?

Our ultimate neighbour is Jesus, whose compassion exceeds Leviticus 19:18.

To summarise.

If we speak of eternal life, and the way to it, in a careless manner, such as the lawyer, we take the name of God in vain through the pride in our hearts striving to do it 'our way'.

The parable sets forth the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward sinful, miserable men, and a full and total explanation of the law of loving our neighbour as ourselves, without regard to nation, party, or any other distinction, surely we should be obeying the Words of Jesus and the action of the Samaritan in verse 32 by walking beside those who need help.

I put it to you all that it is the duty of us all - wherever we are, and according to our ability - to succour, help, and relieve all that are in distress and necessity.