

Motivation for Gospel-Centered Mercy

Luke 10:25-37

May 2, 2021

1. _____ Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?

A lawyer today is one whose expertise is in law. This is no different with respect to the lawyer in Luke 10. The difference is in the object of study or the law concerning which the lawyer is an expert. The lawyer in Luke 10 was an expert in the law of God—the Torah.

The lawyers “stood up” to ask the question.

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Notice Jesus’ answer: “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”

Throughout our text, Jesus answers the lawyer’s questions with his own questions.

Jesus is getting to the heart of the man, and he is reshaping and reorienting the dialogue.

Quoting from two passages—Deut 6:5 and Lev 19:18—the lawyer answers, “You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself.”

Now remember, the question the lawyer posed was, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus responds in v. 28, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” Is Jesus really commending the man for properly identifying the path to salvation? Instead of the gospel, should we substitute obedience to God’s commandments? Should we simply be telling people to love God entirely and love neighbor as self in order to be saved?

2. _____ is My Neighbor?

The reason the lawyer asks the question is because he desired to “justify himself.”

Don’t lose sight of the connection between the first and second question the lawyer asks. The first was, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” The second question is motivated by a desire to justify himself. You see, this man

has a high view of self! He doesn't see himself as a man in need of forgiveness, mercy, and grace.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan...

"A man," he says in v. 30, "was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead."

For any first century person, the seventeen-mile journey from Jerusalem to Jericho was known as a dangerous one.

The description "half dead" is not intended to communicate his remaining life but his imminent death. In other words, this is a man who was incapacitated and incapable of helping himself after having been attacked.

One of the men in the story was a priest and the other was a Levite. Priests were a particular group chosen from among the Levites, and the Levites were the Israelites within the tribe of Israel commissioned to lead in worship.

How did each of these men respond to the man lying bruised, bloody, and in desperate need of help?

"But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion." What do we need to remember about Samaritans?

How does the Samaritan respond to the man in need of mercy?

Now Jesus asks his question in v. 36, "Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"

The lawyer, unwilling to say the Samaritan says, "the one who showed him *mercy*." Jesus responds, "Go, and do likewise."

Again, don't lose sight of the original question that produced this dialogue between Jesus and the lawyer, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

1 Pet 2:21, "Christ also suffered for you, *leaving you an example*, so that you might follow in his steps."

People who have been given the mercy of Christ are called to give that same mercy to others.