

## “The Parable of the Good Samaritan”

Luke 10:30-37

Associate Minister’s Class

11-29-14

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INTRODUCTION: Although there are parables found in the Old Testament, Jesus used them to such an extent that we may consider His parables to be in a special category. The great efficacy of parables lay in the fact that they move a student from the familiar, to that which is unfamiliar, and from the known, to that which is unknown.

There are two reasons that ministers of the Gospel should be skilled in recognizing and interpreting parables:

1. parables are so prevalent in the Gospels
2. parables provide the Bible teacher a great blueprint of how to effectively preach/teach, any passage of scripture

The Gospels contain many parables of Christ, however, today we will examine one in particular – The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:30-37.

- 1) The definition: What is a parable?
- 2) The question for ministers is how do we correctly interpret parables?
- 3) The first step in interpreting a parable is to identify the “main idea.” This is often easier to do in shorter parables, than with longer ones. However, identifying the main idea in longer parables is especially important, so as not to become *bogged down* attempting to interpret elements that are not significant to the lesson Christ is trying to teach.
- 4) The following are beginning steps in identifying the main idea of a parable:
  - a) Examine the context
  - b) Examine the principal parts for their obvious features
- 5) In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, the first question we must ask is what is the occasion?
- 6) The second important task in interpreting the parable is to identify the principal parts.
- 7) As in all biblical interpretation, knowledge of the historical, cultural, and geographical setting is also important.
- 8) Interpretation of the *context* passages:
  - a) v. 25 – Who were the lawyers? Overall, what was their relationship with Jesus? What was the purpose behind this lawyer’s question?
  - b) v. 26 – Christ’ response.
  - c) v. 27 – The lawyer answers with the “Creed of the Jews.”

- d) v. 28 – Jesus affirms that the law is right, and that in keeping the law, he would have eternal life.
  - e) v. 29 – The lawyer, in an effort to appear righteous, asked Jesus, Who is my neighbor? Doubtless, he assumed Christ would say, “All Jews.” The Jews did not believe they had any such obligation to gentiles.
- 9) Interpretation of the parable:
- a) v. 30a – The “certain man.”
  - b) v. 30b – The “certain man’s” misfortune.
  - c) v. 31a – A priest spots the wounded traveler in the road.
  - d) v. 31b – The priest’s reaction.
  - e) v. 32a – A Levite spots the wounded traveler in the road.
  - f) v. 32b – The Levite’s reaction.
  - g) v. 33b – The “certain Samaritan” spots the wounded traveler in the road.
  - h) v. 33c – Jesus first describes the Samaritans emotional response.
  - i) v. 34-35 – The Samaritan’s reaction.
  - j) v. 36 – Jesus transforms the Lawyer’s question from, “Whom am I to love as my neighbor?” to “Who is the man that shows *neighborly* love?”
  - k) v. 37a – The Lawyer answers correctly.
  - l) v. 37b - Jesus’ admonition to the Lawyer.