

DISHONEST QUESTIONS

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Luke 10:25-37

1. Our chronological study of the life and ministry of Christ has revealed that people sought Him out, and identified with Him, for various reasons.
2. Here we have an account of a lawyer (scribe, expert in the Mosaic Law) asking the right questions for the wrong reasons.
 - a. "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
 - b. "And who is my neighbor?"
3. The first question was designed, "...to put Jesus to the test."
NOTE: People today, who are living in rebellion against God, often try to discredit Jesus, the Bible, and the church by asking questions that are designed to create controversy and confusion.
4. Not liking the implications of Jesus' response the lawyer asked a second question that was designed to justify himself.
NOTE: Most people are very good at self-justification, excusing and explaining away their sinful actions and attitudes as somehow justified under the circumstances of their lives.
5. We can learn how to deal with skeptics and unbelievers by learning from how Jesus dealt with them.

I. What shall I do to inherit eternal life?

- A. The lawyer, like most people, equated inheriting eternal life with doing certain things like religious practices and good deeds.
- B. Note how Jesus dealt with him.
 1. "You are the recognized expert on the Law; how do you interpret it on this matter?"
 2. The lawyer correctly quoted Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18
 3. Jesus responded, "You have answered correctly; **do this and you will live.**" Leviticus 18:5
NOTE: Do this and you will live eternally.
 - a. People who want to be saved by their works can be by perfectly fulfilling these to commandments.
 - b. The problem is that nobody can come close to fulfilling them.

NOTE: Two passages immediately come to mind.

(1) John 14:21-24

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. 24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."

NOTE: If you are not perfectly obeying God, you are not perfectly loving God.

(2) Romans 13:8-10

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. 9 For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT

COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

C. Our only hope for inheriting eternal life is to become the recipients of God's mercy and grace.

D. We become the recipients of God's mercy and grace when we repent towards God and embrace, by faith, Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

E. Having then been born again from above, we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, Who then sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts and empowers us to fulfill the spirit, and not the letter, of these two commandments.

II. And who is my neighbor?

A. Convicted by what Jesus said, the lawyer tried to justify himself by limiting the scope of who his neighbor was.

B. The truth was that there were many people in the world that the scribe looked down on, and even despised, and that would include anyone who was not a Jew in good standing.

C. In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus not only answered the lawyer's question, but He also illustrated who our neighbor is and how we manifest love.

D. Note three important truths related to the lawyer's question.

1. Love your neighbor even if your neighbor does not love you.

a. The man who was beaten and robbed was a Jew, and the Samaritan was there only by chance since he was on a journey.

b. If the situation had been reversed the Jew would not have helped the Samaritan.

c. The Bible teaches that we are not to be selective related to who we show love towards.

(1) Matthew 5:43-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 "If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

(2) Romans 12:17-21

Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. 20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

d. The Samaritan was motivated by compassion; being a traveler himself he identified with the man.

e. Note that the priest and the Levite, two men who were devoted to their religious practices, chose to ignore the man in need.

2. Love your neighbor regardless of the risk.

a. The Samaritan was willing to put himself at risk in order to help the man in need.

NOTE: Where were the robbers?

b. There is also the fear of the unknown because we never know what people's response will be, or what our attempt to help may involve or cost us in effort, time and money.

3. Love you neighbor regardless of the cost.

a. The Samaritan was willing to meet the injured man's needs out of his own resources.

b. He invested time, energy, and money to meet the man's need.

c. This parable puts Luke 14:33 in perspective which reads, "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."

NOTE: We cannot effectively manifest the unconditional love of God if we have to calculate what doing so might cost us personally.

APPLICATION

1. The lawyer answered correctly when Jesus asked, "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers hands?"
2. He answered, "The one who showed mercy towards him."
3. Jesus' command to the lawyer and to us is clear, "Go and do the same."