

**“And who is my
neighbor?”**

Luke 10:25-37

“And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:25

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.

“Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“And who is my neighbor?”

**“A scholar well versed in
Scripture asked a common
question, either to take issue with
Jesus or simply to see what kind
of teacher He was.”**

NIV 2011 Study Bible

“And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:26-29

26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” **27** He 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.”

“And who is my neighbor?”

Deuteronomy 6:5

**Love the LORD your God with
all your heart and with all your
soul and with all your strength.**

“And who is my neighbor?”

Leviticus 19:18

**“ Do not seek revenge or bear a
grudge against anyone among
your people, but love your
neighbor as yourself. I am the
LORD.**

“And who is my neighbor?”

James 2:8

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.

“And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:29

**But he wanted to justify himself,
so he asked Jesus, “And who is
my neighbor?”**

“And who is my neighbor?”

“...the lawyer’s question is really an attempt to create a distinction, arguing that some people are neighbors and some are not, and that one’s responsibility is only to love God’s people.”

Darrell Bock

“And who is my neighbor?”

“The prevailing opinion among scribes and Pharisees was that one’s neighbors were the righteous alone. According to them, the wicked—including rank sinners (such as tax collectors and prostitutes), Gentiles, and especially Samaritans—were to be hated because they were the enemies of God...

The Pharisees had elevated hostility toward the wicked to the status of a virtue, in effect nullifying the second Great Commandment.”

“And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:30-32

30 In 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.

31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. **32** So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

“And who is my neighbor?”

**“In each case as these
“righteous” men happened down
the path, the wounded man could
have thought, “Surely help is
here now.” But in each case there
is disappointment, for they pass
by the misery lying in their way.”**

Darrell Bock

“And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:33-35

33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. **34** He 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.

35 The 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.'

“And who is my neighbor?”

“Jesus details in a series of verbs just how active this man is in ministering to his newly discovered needy neighbor: he goes to him, bandages him, pours oil and wine on his wounds, puts him on his donkey, carries him to the inn, and takes care of him,

even to the point of leaving enough money behind to make sure the man has two weeks lodging to recover. In addition, he tells the innkeeper to keep a running tab, so that when he returns he can pay any cost overruns.”

“And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:36-37

36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” **37** The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

“And who is my neighbor?”

“A deep hatred existed between Jews and Samaritans... to the law expert, the person least likely to act correctly would be the Samaritan. In fact, he did not even say the word “Samaritan” in answer to Jesus’ question. This “expert’s” attitude betrayed his lack of the very thing that he had earlier said the Law commanded-love.”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

Application

Who are our neighbors?

Three principles:

- **Lack of love is easy to justify, even though it is never right**
- **Our neighbor is anyone of any race, creed, or social background who is in need**
- **Love means acting to meet the person's need**

Final Thoughts

“Loving God and loving your neighbor are the two greatest commandments. But who is your neighbor? When Jesus was asked this question, He told a story that shocked His hearers. A true neighbor is one who is willing to look past the differences that traditionally divided people and to love others unconditionally and without prejudice. Who would God have you to reach out to today?”

Final Thoughts

James 2:14-18

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? **15** Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.

16 If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? **17** In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. **18** But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

Final Thoughts

Matthew 7:12

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.