

LUKE 10:25-37

10 MARCH 2024

ICE BREAKER: Upon meeting someone, what about them usually makes a first impression upon you?

LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

An Expert in the Law, faking respect, stood and asked Jesus, 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' The question, outwardly, seems genuine, but **the inward intentions** were not. The religious scholar did not ask the question to learn from Jesus, but to discredit Him, as he 'stood to test Jesus.'

Notice how Jesus responds to deep questions of the things of God, especially from those with mixed, even dark intentions. **Jesus answered questions with questions.** The Expert in the Law asked two questions. Jesus answered both times, ending with questions back to him.

Why? Jesus always wants **to reveal the hidden assumptions of both the question and questioner.**

1. Describe a **difficult question of God** or the **Bible** asked of you, and **how you answered it.**

(Read verses 26-29) The Expert in the Law was an elite member of Jewish society. He was in a rare class as an educated judge of the Mosaic Law. Thus, he was both a theologian and legal counsel, holding both religious and legal authority. He would have memorized the whole Old Testament. He would have been expected to faithfully observe the Jewish Festivals, Dietary Restrictions, and Temple Offerings.

So when he stated, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart...and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself', Jesus basically said, 'Ok, go and do it. Go and see if you can love God with ALL your heart and love your neighbor as Yourself.' So how did this Expert in the Law reply?

He said, 'And who is my neighbor?' Did you get that? He said first part, I got that. Check. Now, let me ask you about the second part, the neighbor part. This religious expert thought all the things he did for God met a standard for eternal life, revealing not his advanced spirituality, but his own blindspot.

2. What do you find as a **blindspot in your life**, that **God** or **others** have **revealed** to you?

(Read verse 29) What was the reason the Expert in the Law asked, 'Who is my neighbor?' Plainly revealed, 'He wanted to **justify himself.**' Though he had deceived himself in believing he fulfilled the commandment of 'loving God with all his heart', he could not admit that he met the standard of 'loving his neighbor as himself.'

So to appease his own conscious, and save face before those in the crowd who would have been his neighbors, he sought to justify himself, to justify his righteousness. But He will not appeal to God's mercy for God's righteousness. He will justify himself. Sinful man fights **the gravity of self-justification**, pulling him in at every difficult conversation and in every area of life: home, school, work, play, and religion.

3. Describe a situation or conflict, where you were **justifying yourself.**

(Read verses 30-37) Jesus tells the **parable of the Good Samaritan**. There is an **unnamed man** on a journey ambushed by robbers, beaten, and left for dead. Two **religious men** pass him by leaving him to die. Now coming on the tragic scene is **a Samaritan**, considered an outsider to the religious elite, whose name even the Expert of the Law cannot bring himself up to speak. **This Good Samaritan**, despite the danger, saves the dying man, and pays at his own cost for the health of the dying man now and the future.

4. What part or which person of Jesus' parable strikes you, convicting or inspiring you?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Jesus with this week or invite to Celebration.)
