

THE NEW NORMAL #10
“Race Relations In Jesus’ Day”
Luke 10:25-37

Race relations are a huge issue in America, in fact, they always have been an issue in America from its inception. Since the tragic death of George Floyd race relations, along with covid-19, have risen to the top of the list of challenges that America faces, especially since this is an election year. Our country has not made much progress in healing the racial divide that exists, so we need God’s help and guidance in this area. Did you ever wonder what the climate of race relations were like in the days of Jesus? Did Jesus live in a culture that was ripe with racial tensions? If so, what did he teach about race? Today’s message will answer these questions and more.

#1. A LAWYER ASKED JESUS, “WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?”, vv. 25-28

- A. A lawyer is an expert in the law of Moses & the traditions, v. 25
- B. He was testing Jesus – he was disingenuous, v. 25
- C. Jesus turned the question back to him, v. 26
- D. The lawyer quoted the Shema (Deu 6:5) & Lev 18:18, v. 27
- E. Jesus affirmed his answer: do this & you will live, v. 28

#2. THE LAWYER ASKED JESUS, “AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?”, v. 29

- A. He did this to justify himself & looked for a loophole
- B. Jews thought their neighbors were fellow Jews
- C. Jews had become separatists & exclusive
- D. Jews showed love to people who like them
- E. Love for God & man can’t be separated, 1 John 4:20-21
- F. Jesus raised the bar on the definition of “neighbor”, Lu 6:27-28

#3. THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN – THE SETTING, v. 30

- A. A man (probably Jewish) went from Jerusalem to Jericho
- B. They did this to avoid going through Samaria
- C. This was a dangerous path to travel-filled with robbers
- D. He was attacked, stripped, beaten & left almost dead
- E. Who will help him before he dies?

#4. WHO WILL BE THE FIRST RESPONDER?, vv. 31-32

- A. A priest passed by on the other side of the road, v. 31
- B. A Levite passed by on the other side of the road, v. 32
- C. They had a heart problem – no valid excuse for not helping
- D. They neglected the important matters of the law, Mat 23:23
- E. Were they avoiding being defiled by touching a corpse?, Lev 21:1-3

#5. THE FIRST REPONDER IS A SAMARITAN, vv. 33-35

- A. The Samaritans & Jews despised each other, Luke 9:51-55
- B. The Samaritan took pity—he had good heart, v. 33, Luke 6:31
- C. The Samaritan gave him first aid, v. 34
- D. The Samaritan took him to an inn & cared for him, v. 34
- E. The Samaritan gave the innkeeper 2 denarii, v. 35
- F. The Samaritan promised to reimburse the innkeeper, v. 35

#6. THE CONCLUSION – BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, vv. 36-37

- A. Jesus asked the lawyer who was the true neighbor, v. 36
 - B. The lawyer said: The one who had mercy on him, v. 37
 - C. Jesus instruction – God and do likewise, v. 37
 - D. Could the lawyer expand his view of neighbors?
 - E. Could the lawyer follow the example of a Samaritan?
 - F. The Samaritan kept the law not the lawyer
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TODAY’S SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-37: On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"²⁶"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"²⁷He 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."²⁹But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"³⁰In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.³²So too, a Levite,

when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.
³³But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two silver coins 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.' ³⁶"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" ³⁷The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

1 John 4:20-21: If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Acts 10:27-28: Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean."

Luke 9:51-55: As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" ⁵⁵But Jesus turned and rebuked them.

Matthew 23:23: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices-- mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law-- justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."

Luke 6:31: Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6:27-28: "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. Describe the racial tension that existed in Jesus' day regarding the Samaritans, the Roman occupying force, and surrounding nations?
- #2. What did the Jews believe about inheriting eternal life?
- #3. Why is it that love for God and your fellow man can't be separated? (1 John 4:20, Luke 6:27-36)
- #4. In what way(s) is self-love important in loving your neighbor as yourself? (see Luke 6:31: Do to others as you would have them do to you.)
- #5. What are your conclusions about the priest and Levite who passed by the man?
- #6. By having a Samaritan be the hero of the parable how would Jesus' audience react to that?
- #7. What do you think the victim of the crime felt when he realized he was helped by a Samaritan?
- #8. What does this teaching tell us about racial stereotyping, racial profiling, racial discrimination, etc.?
- #9. Since we all come from a common ancestor, and bear the divine image (Gen 1:26-27) how does that alter your view of race?
- #10. What was the lesson for the lawyer to learn?
- #11. What is your takeaway from this teaching?