

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #37

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 10:25-37

Sermon Date: June 4, 2006

Introduction:

Yesterday I had an opportunity to help someone – but I guess I really didn't want to make the sacrifice that it would require. So I didn't help. Maybe I'll help that person tomorrow. But that's not the point. With God, the point always relates to our hearts. To what extent was I being selfish? Or to what extent was I simply being a careful steward of resources that were already earmarked for another purpose? "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Sam 16:7)

You know, come to think of it, I didn't stop to pray about that yet. Excuse me a minute while I stop and do just that. (Feel free to stop and pray yourself while I'm away from the keyboard.)

Okay, I'm back. So, where were we? Oh that's right – preparing to study the Good Samaritan parable. It's a familiar story – but this time as you read it, imagine you too are in the scene, walking down the road to Jericho, when you spot a man slumped over in the gutter. What will you do? Will you stop and show him mercy? Will you pass by? As you begin this study, ask God to make this story fresh for you and to change your heart – and mine.

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart below to make observations and jot down any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>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?"</p> <p>²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"</p> <p>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' ^a; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ^b"</p> <p>²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."</p> <p>²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"</p> <p>a Deut 6:5</p> <p>b Lev 19:18</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>³⁰ In 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. 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. 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, took him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins^c 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.'</p> <p>³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"</p> <p>³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."</p> <p>Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."</p> <p>c Greek: "two denarii" – meaning two day's wages</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Dig Deeper:

4. Follow the trail of the “Great Commandment” through the scriptures by exploring the following series of verses and their contexts.

Lev 19:18

Deut 6:4-5

Deut 10:12

Joshua 22:5

Matthew 22:34-40

Luke 10:25-37

Romans 13:10

Gal 5:14

James 2:8

a. Restate in your own words this “Great Commandment.”

5. How are you doing at fulfilling this rather direct and specific command? Let’s review the subsequent parable as a means of considering our own standing before the Lord.

a. There are six individuals in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Which of them do you identify with the most and why?

b. What are some likely reasons why the priest and the Levite might have passed by the wounded man on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho? Consider the following: (1) Numbers chapter 19; (2) the roles and backgrounds of priests and Levites; and (3) the nature of that road (17 miles long, 3300 foot change in altitude, criminal infested).

c. When in your life have you missed or avoided an opportunity to help someone in great need? What happened as a result? How did you feel then? How do you feel now, looking back?

d. When in your life have you felt most like the Samaritan in this parable? Or when, like the wounded man, have you been in great need and been helped? Who helped you – was it someone logical or someone unexpected? How did it feel?

6. Read Matthew 25:31-46.

a. How do the “sheep” and the “goats” in this passage differ, and what consequences do they each face as a result?

b. Perhaps question 5 left you feeling more like a goat. What can you do to become more sheep-like? (Consider Rom 10:9, 13; 2 Cor 5:17; and Luke 11:1-13, which enable us to begin to accomplish Luke 10:27)

7. Think of someone you know who is not a follower of Christ. Imagine that you see that person tomorrow and they ask you, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" How would you answer them? Sometimes in these situations, we stumble in our response and then come up with great replies later on, after the opportunity has passed. To help guard against this, take a minute to imagine such a real situation happening tomorrow, and write below how you would hope to be able to respond. What would you say?

He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the Lord requires of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8