

# The Good Samaritan

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In this meeting we look at “The Good Samaritan” with the theme of who is my neighbour.

## THE GOOD SAMARITAN

To start our reflections we look at the scripture passage recorded for us by Luke.

### [Luke 10:25-37](#)

<sup>25</sup> And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

<sup>26</sup> He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

<sup>27</sup> And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

<sup>28</sup> And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

<sup>29</sup> But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

<sup>30</sup> And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

<sup>31</sup> And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

<sup>32</sup> And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

<sup>33</sup> But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

<sup>34</sup> And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

<sup>35</sup> And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

<sup>36</sup> Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

<sup>37</sup> And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

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## DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was notoriously dangerous, known as “The Way of Blood”. People got robbed there all the time. The scene would have been all too familiar.

1. Why did the lawyer ask Jesus his question?
  - Refer to [Luke 10:25](#) and [Luke 10:29](#)
2. Who are the principles in Jesus’ story?
  - The Priest, the Levite, the Samaritan, the man who fell amongst thieves
  - What do we know about each of them?
3. Why did the Samaritan help but not the Priest or Levite?
  - The Priest and Levite could have become ritually unclean by touching the man if he was dead
  - The Priest and Levite may have been scared to linger on the dangerous road, they could get robbed, it may be a trap.
  - The Samaritan risked his security, time and possessions and took personal responsibility for the man
  - What motivated the Samaritan [Luke 10:33](#)
  - “The question the priest and Levite asked was ‘if I stop to help this man what will happen to me?’ but the good Samaritan reversed this question and asked ‘if I do not stop to help this man what will happen to him?’” *Martin Luther King Jr.*
  - Who got their priorities right? and why?
4. Who are our neighbours today?
  - People like us?, Christians?, ISIS? All human kind?
  - Reflect on the following scripture passages [Matt 5:44-48](#) [Rom 12:20-21](#)
5. How can we become better neighbours like the Good Samaritan?
  - Doing something at a small cost to ourselves, e.g. giving someone directions, volunteering, giving money to someone for a train ticket home
  - Doing something at a potentially significant cost to ourselves, e.g. jumping into a river to save someone else, stopping to help at a car accident
  - Doing something good for someone we don’t like or wouldn’t normally associate with
6. What might stop us from helping others?
  - Safety and Security
  - Reputation, what others might think
  - Time - we often consider ourselves to be busy or in a hurry. Does this stop us noticing and helping people in need around us?
  - Possessions/money/personal cost - the man was clearly badly hurt and helping him would probably involve a lot of effort and expense
  - What do these concerns have in common? Do we seek to “justify” ourselves