

Discover Your Neighbor

February 14, 2010

Luke 10:25-37

I. *Urban Legends About Life and Faith:*

²⁵On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

1. Eternal Life is something you earn.

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.'"

2. Theology is something you recite.

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?"

3. Compassion is something you get done.

³¹"A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side."

4. What counts is preserving my status with others.

³²"So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side."

5. What counts is not being duped.

II. *What True Compassion Looks Like:*

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

1. Compassion is something you both feel & do.

^{34a}"He went to him..."

2. Compassion requires getting up close & personal.

^{34b}"...and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine."

3. Compassion is an act of worship.

^{34c}"Then he put the man on his own donkey, ..."

4. Compassion involves self-sacrifice.

^{34d}"...took him to an inn and took care of him."

5. Compassion requires taking the risk to get involved.

³⁵"The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper."

6. Compassion responds to the sins of others.

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."

7. Compassion doesn't define its object; compassion discovers it.