

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 5

Luke 10

INTRODUCTION: One of the great chapters in the Bible is Luke 10. In the early part of the chapter our Lord has sent out the seventy to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He denounces judgment upon wicked cities, and in Luke 10:27, He gives the great commandment, "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." The question comes to Him from a certain lawyer, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus begins the great parable of the good Samaritan in answer to his question. (Teacher: Begin the lesson by telling the story of the good Samaritan. It is a very familiar passage. Tell how the fellow was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves. Tell how he was beaten and left half dead. Tell about the priest who came by and did not help him and the Levite who came by and did not help him either. Then explain that this Samaritan came and helped the fallen man. Explain how he took him to an inn, paid for his room and board, and promised to come back and pay more if more debts had been accrued. Then teach the following lessons concerning the story.)

- I. OUR NEIGHBOR IS ANYONE WHO NEEDS OUR HELP. Here is a fellow in trouble, a fellow who is beaten. Jesus is explaining to us that that man is our neighbor. We should spend our lives helping those in need, lifting up the fallen and caring for the needs of those who cross our path. To be sure, this man could not help all the people who were in trouble, but he could help those whose path he crossed, those who needed him.
  
- II. OUR ENEMY IS OUR NEIGHBOR IF HE IS IN NEED. Bear in mind, the man who helped the fellow in trouble was a Samaritan. The Samaritans were a half-breed race. When the Jews had been taken into captivity in Babylon, some Assyrians came into the land and intermarried with some of the poor girls who had been left in the land during the captivity. They felt the land was theirs. Hence, a great animosity arose between the Samaritans and the Jews. They were, to put it mildly, enemies! In spite of this fact, this Samaritan helped his enemy. Nothing in Christianity so separates the men from the boys as our attitudes toward our enemies. A Christian should love his enemies, pray for his enemies, do good to his enemies, bless his enemies, wish his enemies well, be friendly to his enemies, and above all things, not be an enemy to his enemies! (Teacher: Stress this carefully. Underline it again and again.) Would God we could learn the lesson that our Lord taught us on the cross! When He was hanging between Heaven and earth, dipping His own soul into torment, feeling the pain of the nails in His hands and feet and the crown of thorns on His head, and suffering as a public spectacle as no man had suffered, He said about those who had just crucified Him, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." To be Christlike, we must love our enemies.
  
- III. OUR NEIGHBOR MAY BE A MEMBER OF ANOTHER RACE AND ANOTHER SOCIAL STANDING. The Christian is to help all people in need. The Samaritan could have said, "Ha! It's good enough for that Jew! He looks down on me. I am a poor, hated man. My race is a poor, hated race." Here would have been a good place for him to say, "I will fight for my own rights. I won't worry about the other race." He could have demonstrated. Yet, he gave us a lesson that we should never forget. We should love and help people of all races. Any man, regardless of race, color or creed, is our neighbor. This does not mean that every man is our brother in Christ. It does not teach that we are to run around with him or hang around with the wrong crowd. It does teach that we are to help him when he is in need.

There is a wicked teaching loose in our generation that one must either run with the wrong crowd or hate the wrong crowd. This is not true. We are to love the sinner, help the sinner, care for the sinner, but we are not to run with the sinner.

- IV. OUR REAL NEIGHBOR IS CHRIST. In this parable salvation is pictured so beautifully. Let us follow step by step salvation's plan as it is found in this parable.
  1. "A certain man." We are all represented by the man who was robbed and beaten. Notice the words in Luke 10:30, "A certain man." The Lord is saying that this man represents all of us.

2. He “went down.” Look again at verse 30. This is exactly what happened to us when we went into sin; we “went down.” In the Garden of Eden, Adam was innocent. He fell from the state of innocence to a state of guilt because he sinned, and in so doing, he fell.
3. “...from Jerusalem.” The word “Jerusalem” means “peace.” When a person falls into sin, he always falls down away from peace. “There is no peace to the wicked,” said the Old Testament prophet. To leave the will of God is to leave peace. To find the will of God is to find peace.
4. “...to Jericho.” Jericho was an accursed place. When the Israelites came to the Promised Land and fought the battle of Jericho, God told them to take nothing for themselves, for Jericho was a city of cursing. This is what happened in the Garden of Eden. When man sinned, he fell under the curse. We, as sinners, are born under that curse, and that curse is lifted only when we receive Him Who became our curse on the cross.
5. “...and fell among thieves.” Here is a picture of what happened to man in the Garden of Eden. Satan is a thief and a robber. In the Garden of Eden man fell because of his yielding to the temptation of the evil one!
6. “...which stripped him of his raiment.” Here is a picture of man’s condition after he fell into sin because of the temptation of Satan. Remember that Adam and Eve were naked in the Garden of Eden and were not ashamed. When they sinned, they realized their nakedness. This is pictured in our story by the fact that the man was stripped of his garment. Salvation in the Bible is likened to a garment. It is likened to a robe of righteousness. Hence, unsaved man is naked before God. A saved man is clothed in the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ.
7. “...and departed.” The thief left the poor man there. Here is an interesting truth in the Bible. Satan comes to us, does his work on us and leaves. When Christ comes to us, He never leaves. Ah, He is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Satan is an impostor and no friend at all.
8. “...leaving him half dead.” Here is a picture of what happened to man in the Garden of Eden. Satan left us half dead. Spiritually we became dead, though physically we were alive. Hence, we were “half dead.”
9. “And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.” Notice, a priest came by. The priest was certainly the one that we would think would help him. How tragic it is that so often the churches do nothing to help fallen people. The churches do nothing to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, help the poor, etc. Notice the words, “came down.” This is very interesting. The priest perhaps did not help him because he was going “down” the same way. He was in the same predicament. One man going down cannot help another man who is going down. Then in Luke 10:32, a Levite comes. Certainly he will help him. He is the caretaker of the temple. He is in full-time service for God; and yet he, too, passes him by.
10. “But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was,” Luke 10:33a. Ah, here is a fellow who is going to help him. How does he help him? First, he comes where he is. This is how Jesus helped us. We fell into sin because of the temptation of Satan. Nevertheless, Jesus helped us. He began by leaving Heaven and coming to earth. He Who was rich became poor. He Who was high became low. He Who was mighty became weak. He Who was God became man. He Who was perfect bore our sins in His body on the tree. He came where we were. Thank God!
11. “...and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,” Luke 10:33b. This pictures Jesus, Who, when He saw the multitudes, had compassion on them.
12. “And went to him, and bound up his wounds,” Luke 10:34a. Here is a picture of salvation. Christ came to us to bind up our wounds. What a beautiful picture of salvation!
13. “...pouring in oil.” Oil in the Bible is a picture of the Holy Spirit. Now that his wounds are bound, he pours in oil—a picture of the Holy Spirit coming to live in us when we are saved. Ah, what a beautiful picture of our salvation is this little story of the good Samaritan!
14. “...and wine.” Wine is a picture of God’s blessings. It is a type of God’s best blessings. This does not mean fermented wine. It simply means grape juice, and it is always a symbol of God’s best. When God saves us, He pours in the Holy Spirit and then gives His best to us. What a salvation!
15. “...and set him on his own beast.” Here is another beautiful picture. The Samaritan came where the poor man was and then took the poor man back where the Samaritan had been. Here is a picture of Jesus coming to earth where we are that He might take us back to Heaven where He was, and, thank God, where He now is.

16. “...and brought him to an inn.” The inn is a picture of a church. When a person is saved, he must be cared for; this is why we have a church. Notice, this happened immediately. The Christian should join the church as soon as he is saved.
17. “And on the morrow when he departed.” Here is a picture of Jesus going back to Heaven.
18. “...he took out two pence.” Here is Jesus paying the price for our salvation.
19. “...when I come again.” Here is a picture of the second coming of Jesus Christ.
20. “I will repay thee.” Here is a picture of the Judgment Seat of Christ, where the Christian receives his rewards for what he has done for God.