



## “The Good Samaritan”

### Study Guide

- Take a moment to pray for clarity and understanding as you open God’s word. Ask him for humility as you search the Scriptures for truth.
- Read Luke 10:25-37
- Jesus asks the Lawyer what is written in the law, and the Lawyer responds with the Shema (The Jewish Profession of Faith). You can find this in Deut. 6:4-5. He then adds Leviticus 19:18 (love your neighbor as yourself). This was a good answer. Jesus himself stated that these were the most important commandments in the law of God (Mark 12:28-31). Look up those passages and read them yourselves.
- Jesus states that obeying these two commands would grant eternal life. He’s right! But wait a minute...Read the following verses:
  - Romans 3:20
  - Gal 3:10
  - Romans 3:23
  - Romans 5:12

Is Jesus contradicting these verses? Is he saying we are not hopelessly lost in sin and we can please God by our own works? No. Jesus is simply acknowledging that one *could* be saved by obeying the law perfectly. But we know that no one *can* do that. Therefore, it is only by grace that one is saved. Read the following verses.

- John 3:16
- Galatians 2:16
- Ephesians 2:8-9

- Can you think of any other Scripture passages stating similar things?
- At this point, the lawyer should've recognized his sin, but rather, he tried to justify himself by having Jesus define neighbor...as if he had loved *his* neighbor perfectly per his own definition. Jesus then tells us the parable of the Good Samaritan.
- Read the parable of again. Spend some time researching the history about between the Samaritans and the Jews...it wasn't pleasant!
- This parable teaches us three things that I want you to pray about and meditate on:
  - Lack of love is easy to justify. (Why? How do we justify the lack of love in our own lives?)
  - Our neighbor is anyone of any race, creed, or social background who is in need. (Is this how you view your neighbor? Or is it usually just the people that you like/love?)
  - Love means acting to meet a person's needs. (Words are cheap. Showing love is harder than stating it. How can we better *show* love to the people in need around us?)
- God is **Good!** He has given us the perfect example of how to love him and our neighbor well...because he has loved *us* well. Spend some time thanking God for his love and asking him to help you be a better neighbor. Make a goal to go out this week and purposely be a "Good Samaritan" to someone who needs help.