

The Secret Most People Miss... The Good Samaritan Dilemma



Just a few verses before the story of the Good Samaritan we get this insight...

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children... Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.""

Key Question: What "secrets of the kingdom of God" does Jesus want us to have and to understand?

Over the next 7 weeks we will be seeking to understand these secrets through looking at the following...

- 1) The writer, the situation, and their encounter with Jesus. (OBSERVE)
- 2) How these personal experiences created a hunger and thirst to know God and His purpose for them. (REFLECT)
- 3) What is necessary to "see & hear" God's hopes for us in today's world. (RESPOND)

"The kingdom is not an exclusive, well-trimmed suburb with snobbish rules about who can live there. No, it is for a larger, homelier, less self-conscious caste of people who understand they are sinners because they have experienced the yaw and pitch of moral struggle."

Brennan Manning:

The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out

OBSERVE: Luke 10:25-37 (page 26-27, Books of the Bible)

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

"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

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'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii 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.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

REFLECT: Why are the following questions important?

1st Question: On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

What is your motive for asking questions? Is it to "test" or to "understand?"

Q: What is the insight (secret) Jesus gives us in this part of their interaction? ("What must I do to inherit eternal life?")

2nd Question: But he (the expert in God's laws) wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

What is Jesus trying to get across to his listeners when he says, "Go and do likewise"?

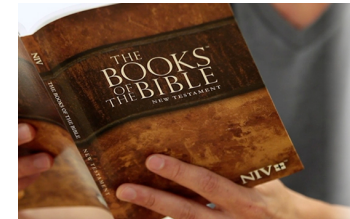
Q: What is the insight (secret) does Jesus gives us about what a true "good Samaritan" is like?

*The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was:
'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?'
But... the good Samaritan reversed the question:
'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'*
Martin Luther King, Jr.

WEEKLY STUDY CHALLENGE

A. Read WEEK TWO (pgs.55-115) of "**The Books of the Bible.**" If you prefer, you can download the CBE app, add the CBE readings to the YouVersion Bible app, or listen to it via audio. For all of these resources, go to: <http://cbe.covchurch.org/resources/>

B. As you do your readings, consider these 5 questions... (which will be discussed in various small groups each week)



- 1. What's something you noticed for the first time?**
- 2. What questions did you have?**
- 3. Was there anything that bothered you?**
- 4. What did you learn about loving God?**
- 5. What did you learn about loving others?**

C. Understanding the Writer of Luke & Acts

Luke the physician and companion of Paul is most likely the author of the Gospel by his name. He was also the author of its companion work, The Book of Acts. Luke-Acts makes up 28% of the New Testament--more than that written by either Paul or John.

His purpose in writing: It was written to strengthen the faith of all believers and to answer the attacks of unbelievers. Luke wanted to show that the place of the Gentile Christian in God's kingdom is based on the teaching of Jesus. He wanted to commend the preaching of the gospel to the whole world. He wanted to provide a guide to understanding Jesus teachings that would show Jesus and the Holy Spirit's power in the face of bitter persecution.

If you haven't signed up for CBE yet, there's still time to jump in with us! Stop by the CBE table, the church office, or sign up today!