Week 6-Costly Compassion

Vision and Objective:

Communities flourish when followers of Jesus practice compassion. We see and act, embodying what it means to love God and love our neighbors. We extend compassion to all, even when it is costly or risky.

Opening Prayer

Our Father, we come this evening to study and learn from your word for as the Psalmist said, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”. Please use this time that we have together as that lamp and help us to keep to the path that you have put before us. In the name of Jesus, your son, amen.

Scripture Passage: Luke 10:25-37 NRSV

### The Parable of the Good Samaritan

**25** Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A25-37&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-25381a)] “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” **26** He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” **27** He answered, “You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself.” **28** And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” **29** But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” **30** Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. **31** Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32** So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. **34** He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **35** The next day he took out two denarii,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A25-37&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-25391b)] gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ **36** Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” **37** He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

#### Footnotes

1. [Luke 10:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A25-37&version=NRSV#en-NRSV-25381) Gk *him*
2. [Luke 10:35](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A25-37&version=NRSV#en-NRSV-25391) The denarius was the usual day’s wage for a laborer

Context & Background

Samaritans: Non-Jewish and viewed as irreligious. There was deep hatred and tension between Jews and Samaritans. Samaritan was even used as a “slur” in Jewish society

Road to Jericho: an infamously dangerous road, often beset by bandits

Expert in the Law: Someone who loved the Scriptures, memorized them, and tried to put them into action in his life

Questions to Discuss:,

How do the actions of the Samaritan compare and contrast to the actions of the priest and the Levite? Samaritan practiced true Christian love

Priest/Levi-Too busy to help

Priest/Levi purposely avoided the injured man

Samaritan overcame his fear and helped the man

What is significant about Jesus highlighting the Samaritan as the hero of the passage?

Enmity between Jews and Samaritan

Without Jesus telling this story, no one would have believed a Samaritan would have helped a Jew

What might Jesus be trying to teach the expert by answering a different question?

Emphasizing that “neighbor” is not just local or friends, outside community, even adverse (or oppose) to you

If our community was known for showing costly compassion to all, how would it impact others ? What is God saying to you through Luke 10? How is he inviting you to respond?

More Christians? Helping refugees, undocumented workers…

BLM, Pride parades, etc.

Do a survey?

Closing Prayer

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*Old Gaelic blessing found at: https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/closing\_prayer.html*