

**Scripture - Luke 10:25-37 Parable of the Good Samaritan**  
**Part 5 - Clarity: Is the Bible Clear Enough to Understand?**  
**(Perspicuity, Analogy of Faith)**

This fall our Bible study is asking, "What is the Bible?" The question today is about the clarity of the Bible: Is the Bible clear enough to understand?

Let's read the intro to the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-29.

This lawyer is one of the religious leaders in Israel. He's a lawyer in the sense that he's an expert in the Law of Israel; he is a Bible scholar. He asks Jesus THE big question, "You're talking about salvation; you're offering it to all kinds of people. What must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus turns it back on him. "Well sir you're an expert, what does the Law say? **HOW DO YOU READ IT?**" And this expert summarizes the Law perfectly - "Love God and love my neighbor." And Jesus says, "Great, do all that and you get to heaven." BUT the Lawyer pushes back because he doesn't like Jesus saying all kinds of people can go to heaven, so he tests Jesus and asks, "So who is my neighbor?"

Jesus answers with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Let's read Luke 10:30-37.

This guy traveling gets ambushed, robbed, beaten, and left for dead. The fact that Jesus is talking to a Jewish crowd and just says, "a man was going from one Jewish town to another" implies this guy traveling is a Jew. Two Jewish religious leaders walk by, see the guy dying, but neither one stops to help. Then a Samaritan walks by. Samaritans and Jews hated each other; racially, ethnically, religiously. But the Samaritan sees this Jewish guy dying, stops, and saves him. And Jesus asks the lawyer expert in the law of Moses - so who proved to be the neighbor in the story? And the lawyer is forced to say his enemy is the hero neighbor.

Jesus says, "Go and do likewise - love God and love your neighbor, and your neighbor includes people in need, even your enemy."

BUT is that the end of the parable of the Good Samaritan? Is that a good application for us and how we live in the world? Yes, but is that the point of the parable?

What was the original question?  
How do I inherit eternal life?

So is Jesus saying to this lawyer the answer to how to inherit eternal life is to fulfill the law by loving God and loving your neighbor (just remember 'neighbor' includes your enemy!)?

How do you know Jesus can't be saying that?  
Because the gospel says we are saved by grace, not by our works. The gospel says we are saved by Jesus' works, not our works.

**Problem:** *The Bible is too long and too hard to understand. This lawyer expert in the law doesn't even get it.*

**[Perspicuity]** Is the Bible clear?

Yes. In a word this is a question about the **perspicuity** of Scripture. **Perspicuity** just means clarity which is ironic because no one knows what that word means.

Is everything in the Bible easy to understand?  
No! The **perspicuity** of Scripture does not mean every verse in the Bible is clear.

The **perspicuity** of Scripture means the overall message of the Bible is clear. What is the overall message of the Bible?

The answer to the question, "How do I inherit eternal life?" The gospel. Jesus saves.

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The Bible is like the ocean. It's shallow enough for little children to wade into but deep enough we'll never see all its depths!

**[Analogy of Faith]** So some parts of the Bible are really deep and hard to understand which is why we also need friends and experts in the Bible to help us understand it. That's why we study the Bible together in the church!

But here is another important method for interpreting the Bible. Remember we said God is the author behind the whole Bible which means the whole Bible is one story. So if it's all one story then what Moses wrote should fit with what Paul wrote, right?

So what's the best source to understand what a difficult part of the Bible means? Ministers, scholars, commentaries are good BUT what's the best, infallible source for what a difficult passage in the Bible means?

The best source to understand what one part of the Bible says is another part of the Bible! This hermeneutic method is called the **analogy of faith** which says Scripture must interpret Scripture. Since it's one story the whole thing has to fit together and one part can't disagree with another part.

**Analogy** just means comparison. So because we know the Bible is the Word of God by **faith**, and that the whole Bible contains **THE FAITH**, we compare a difficult passage to an easier passage in order to understand the more difficult passage. That's the method of the **analogy of faith**.

**[Point of Parables]** The parables of Jesus are like riddles. And for a good riddle you have to go to the riddler and ask them to give you the answer and explain the riddle. That's why Jesus tells parables. They're supposed to

draw you to Jesus. And Jesus explains some of his parables with his own words. Some are explained by the Old Testament, some by the apostles. All of them Jesus explains with his life and death.

The point of the Good Samaritan is the gospel; that Jesus saves us, his enemies, by his grace not because we fulfill the law.

What did Jesus' parable expose about the expert lawyer who thinks he can get to heaven by obeying the law?

The parable exposed the lawyer doesn't fulfill the law. Jesus is saying, "HOW YOU READ THE LAW IS WRONG."

Jesus could have told a story about a Samaritan that gets robbed and beaten and left half dead on the road and then a Jew comes along and loves the man and helps him - and Jesus says - "Now go and be good Jews like that."

But Jesus in a brilliant twist switches the roles and he says, "You, the Jewish person, are the ones who are attacked, beaten, and dying helpless on the side of the road and it's YOUR enemy who comes and saves you."

The answer to the question is we're the person dying on the ground. And our only hope is the love and grace of God who owes us nothing but hate and judgment because of our sin and law breaking.

Jesus is the Good Samaritan. Jesus comes to love his enemies at the greatest cost to himself. Loving us costs Jesus his own life; suffering the wrath of God and taking our condemnation on the cross. Loving us cost Jesus everything and he pays it because he loves his enemies.