

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 Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37.¹

This guy traveling gets ambushed, robbed, beaten, and left for dead. 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; they were enemies. But the Samaritan sees this Jewish guy dying, stops, and saves him. And Jesus asks the lawyer religious leader 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 whole lesson of the parable? What was the original question? How does someone live forever?

Is Jesus saying to this lawyer the answer to how to live forever is to obey 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 rest of the Bible says we are saved by grace, not 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 religious leader doesn't even get it.*

Is everything in the Bible easy to understand? No! Not every verse in the Bible is clear. But is the overall message of the Bible clear? What is the overall message of the Bible? How we live forever! Jesus saves.

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!

[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.

The point of the Good Samaritan is not really really about how we are supposed to love our neighbor. That's just part of it. The parable is about Jesus and the gospel; that Jesus saves us, his enemies, by his grace not because we fulfill the law.

The answer to the question, how do I live forever - we've got to see we're like the traveler dying on the side of the road. And our only hope is for our enemy to save us. 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.

¹ Kevin DeYoung, *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook*, Chapter 72, Who is My Neighbor?, Luke 10 368-373.