

LIVING

beyond me



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Living Beyond Me

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Introduction

Faith is not meant to be private. It is not only about what we believe in our hearts or confess with our lips. True faith is visible. It touches lives. It transforms the way we act, speak, and serve.

Jesus made this clear through parables — stories with deep spiritual truths hidden beneath everyday images. Among these parables, the story of the Good Samaritan stands out. More than a tale about kindness, it is a mirror that shows us what real faith looks like in action.

In this book, we will walk step by step through the Good Samaritan story, exactly as Jesus taught it, and discover how it calls us to live “*More than Me.*”

What Is a Parable?

Jesus often taught in parables. On the surface, these were simple stories — about farmers, seeds, neighbors, or banquets. But beneath each story was a spiritual truth.

Take the parable of the sower: some seed fell on the path, some among thorns, and some on good soil. Farmers knew what Jesus meant about soil and seed. But then he explained: “*The seed is the Word of God. The soil is your heart.*”

The lesson is clear: God’s Word can only grow and bear fruit when our hearts are soft, open, and seeking Him.

That’s what makes a parable more than just a story — it connects earthly images with heavenly realities.

The Question That Changed Everything

In Luke 10, an expert in the Jewish law stood up to test Jesus. His question was sharp:

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“Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

This was not a humble inquiry. He was trying to trap Jesus. Yet the question itself is the most important question anyone could ask.

Jesus responded with another question: *“You are the expert. How do you read it?”*

The man answered: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Jesus said: *“You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”*

But the unspoken truth was clear: *you are not doing this.*

Who Is My Neighbor?

Not satisfied, the man pressed further: *“And who is my neighbor?”*

To Jews at that time, “neighbor” meant another faithful Jew who obeyed the law and participated in the religious life of Israel.

Outsiders — Samaritans, tax collectors, sinners — were excluded.

So Jesus told a story.

A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. Robbers attacked him, stripped him of his clothes, beat him, and left him half dead.

A priest passed by. He avoided the man.

A Levite passed by. He also avoided him.

And then, a Samaritan came.

The Samaritan’s Compassion

The Samaritan saw the wounded man. But more than that, he *truly saw him*. He looked with eyes of understanding and compassion.

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The Bible says he had “compassion.” The original word implies being moved so deeply that it affects you physically — compassion that grips your heart and makes you act.

So the Samaritan went to the man. He poured wine and oil on his wounds, tore his own clothes to make bandages, placed the man on his donkey, and took him to an inn. He paid the innkeeper and promised to return and cover any extra cost.

Jesus then asked: “*Which of these three was a neighbor?*”

The law expert couldn’t even say “Samaritan.” He simply replied: “*The one who showed mercy.*”

Jesus answered: “*Go and do likewise.*”

The Deeper Meaning

At first glance, this parable is about helping others. But Jesus was answering the deeper question: “*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*”

The truth is, no amount of good deeds can earn salvation. None of us perfectly love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. None of us consistently love our neighbor as ourselves.

So what is Jesus showing? He is showing that we fall short — and that He is the true Samaritan who rescues us.

Think about it:

- We are the man beaten and helpless on the road.
- Religion passed us by. Rules could not save us.
- But Jesus came. He saw us. He had compassion. He healed our wounds with His sacrifice.
- He carried us to safety and entrusted us to His church, the inn, until He returns.

This is the gospel in the parable.

Living More Than Me

If Jesus has rescued us, then our lives will reflect His mercy.

Faith is not only believing; it is living. It is seeing the hurting around us, feeling compassion, and taking action. It is loving God fully and loving people sacrificially.

The call of this parable is simple:

- See people.
- Feel compassion.
- Take action.

Not to earn eternal life, but because eternal life is already ours in Christ.

Conclusion

The expert in the law wanted to justify himself. Jesus wanted to expose his need for grace. The Good Samaritan is not just a moral example — it is a picture of the gospel.

Jesus has been the Samaritan for us. He saved us when we were helpless. Now He calls us to live as His hands and feet, to love well, and to show mercy.

So, go and do likewise. Live *More than Me*.
