

## Luke 10:29

*But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

In today's verse, a Lawyer came to Jesus asking Him what he needed to do to inherit eternal life.

† **Luke 10:25** *And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"*

Jesus responded to him in a way we tend not to do, which was:

† **Luke 10:26** *He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"*

And I say that because we tend to tell others how to get to heaven through Jesus Christ, which we should be doing. But I thought Jesus' response was an interesting and wise response. So the lawyer responded to Jesus with:

† **Luke 10:27** *So he answered and said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "*

Once again Jesus responded to him with:

† **Luke 10:28** *And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."*

At that point, you would think that the lawyer would have thought, "Done and done, I got my answer and I am doing good in the way I am living." But no, and that's where today's verse comes into play, when he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

That's when Jesus told a parable that should be familiar to all of us about the Good Samaritan. If you don't know it, or need a refresher, I would encourage you to read it in **Luke 10:30-37**

But one thing I noticed when I was reading it again, and that is that Jesus talked about a Priest, a Levite and a Samaritan (no it wasn't a set up for a joke) who all encountered this man who was robbed and beaten. We all know that, but one other thing came to mind when I read it, which was that each one of them all walked down the same road. Now you may think that is a no duh (which it is) but also, if you think about it, how many of us all walk the same road as other believers walk, but also the same road as non believers walk everyday. You don't need a laundry list of those roads, because we know that we all walk along the same roads (things) in life as others do.

But when I read this, I had to wonder if both the priest and the Levite were actually praying that morning, "Lord show me the path to walk and guide me in Your ways to do Your will." Let's say

that they did, so God answered their prayer, but both of them missed the opportunity to minister to someone in need (their neighbor).

Yet how many times do we pray that same type of prayer and miss the opportunity, simply because we are looking for specific ways that we can minister to others, or a specific type of person to minister to? We tend to look for those things that others will see us doing or even thinking, *“I hope the Lord see’s me doing this.”* Some even go as far as thinking, *“Is this an angel sent by God in disguise with God testing me?”* And that thought process come from reading this next verse.

† **Hebrews 13:2** *Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.*

Yet how many think that way, or look for what they think may be an angel so that they can go minister to them? But this passage in Hebrews is not saying that, read it again and let the word *“unwittingly”* stand out, which means that they did it, not even knowing it or expecting it to be an angel. They simply ministered to someone in need, because they saw the need. They were not looking for a certain way or type of person to minister too. Rather they simply prayed asking the Lord to show them that day who they can bless or minister to, because they know what Jesus said:

† **Matthew 6:3-4** *But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

Simply, we should just do because you see a need.

So don’t be like the priest or Levite who would pick and choose who they would minister to, but rather ask the Lord to pick and choose who you should minister to today, and then as Jesus said after he told the parable:

† **Luke 10:37b** *Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."*