

“The Good Samaritan”

Luke 10:25-37

Pastor John Miller

I. Introduction

- A. Life’s greatest question (v. 25)
 - 1. Of all the questions that could ever be asked, none is more important than the one asked by this lawyer, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
 - 2. The question is rooted in the reality that every human soul is immortal (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
 - 3. The real question is not “Will I live forever?” but “Where will I live forever?” In Heaven or Hell?
 - 4. The question was also asked by the Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18)
 - a) Here it is asked by a lawyer
 - b) Implicit in this question is the Jewish belief in the immortality of the soul
 - 5. It’s sad to say that today so few are asking this question!
 - a) Jesus said, “Wide is the gate...broad is the way...but narrow is the way...”
 - 6. He asked the question to tempt him (v. 25)
 - a) Right question, wrong motive
 - 7. Think about who he is asking the question to
 - a) Jesus, who is eternal

II. The Answer to Life’s Greatest Question (Luke 10:26-29)

- A. Jesus knew the answer was found in God’s Word
 - 1. *“He refers the lawyer at once to the Scriptures, as the only rule of faith and practice. He does not say in reply to his question— “What does the Jewish Church say about eternal life? What do the Scribes, and Pharisees, and priests think? What is taught on the subject in the traditions of the elders?” He takes a far simpler and more direct course. He sends his questioner at once to the writings of the Old Testament: “What is written in the law? How readest thou?” Let the principle contained in these words be one of the foundation principles of our Christianity. Let the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible, be the rule of our faith and practice. Holding this principle, we travel upon the king’s highway. The road may sometimes seem narrow, and our faith may be led to believe or do. Forever let us bear this in mind. Here, let us cast anchor. Here let us abide. It matters nothing who says a thing in religion, whether an ancient father, or a modern Bishop, or a learned divine. Is it in the Bible? Can it be proved by the Bible? If not, it is not to be believed. It matters nothing how beautiful and clever sermons or religious books may appear. Are they, in the smallest degree, contrary to Scripture? This is the only rule, and measure, and gauge of religious truth. “To the law and to the testimony,” says Isaiah, “if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” – J.C. Ryle*

III. Not who is My Neighbor, but Who Can I Be a Neighbor To? (Luke 10:30-37)

IV. Conclusion

- A. Like the unnamed lawyer in our text, we Christians have God's Word, we know the truth, yet we try to justify ourselves for not showing God's love to others
 - 1. Scriptures call us to love our neighbors as ourselves and give us a way to test our relationship with God
 - a) Do you love God?
 - b) Do you love your neighbor?
 - c) Only Jesus did it perfectly
 - d) We need to run to Him for mercy and forgiveness