

# Won't You Be My Neighbor?

*"The Story of the Good Samaritan"*

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (6/28/09 - PM)

Text: Luke 10:25-37

Introduction: I truly believe that if the church could grasp the context of this story, and made application, it would revolutionize the church. There are some brief observations that we need to notice. First, consider the verses prior to the parable (vs.25-29). Second, remember that he asked Jesus the questions first. Finally, we need to consider the lawyer and his motives. This parable is really a story that relates to anyone in any culture. And it is told in the context of the greatest commands (**Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34**). Let's study it together. . . . .

Discussion:

## ***I. Why Did Jesus Tell This Story?***

- The Lawyer's Test
- The Savior's Answer
- The Story's Context
- The Religious Right
- The Loving Liberal

## ***II. Which Character Describes You?***

- Character #1 = The Traveler (v.30)
- Character #2 = The Thief (v.30)
- Character #3 = The Priest (v.31)
- Character #4 = The Levite (v.32)
- Character #5 = The Samaritan (v.33)



## ***III. What Choice Would You Make?***

- Choice #1 = We Can Respond Like The Thieves - Beat Him!
- Choice #2 = We Can Respond Like The Priest - Ignore Him!
- Choice #3 = We Can Respond Like The Levite - Despise Him!
- Choice #4 = We Can Respond Like The Samaritan - Help Him!

Conclusion: Jesus asked the man to identify the real neighbor (vs.36-37). The answer, of course, was the Samaritan, but the lawyer could not bear to say that, so he said, the one that "*showed mercy.*" Jesus then told him to go and do likewise, and be like the Samaritan. Are we showing love, compassion, mercy, and doing good works? Who will be your neighbor? Remember the Golden Rule (**Matthew 7:12**).

WORD OF THE DAY = "Neighbor"