

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 15 Jesus
The Good Samaritan and the Feast of Dedication

Opening prayer: Lord, help us to open our minds and hearts to Your Word. Help us to quiet our minds from other things so that we can study, pray and worship more fully. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's lesson is from Luke chapters 10,11, and 13 as well as John chapter 10.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Read Luke 10:25-37

1. What was the motive of the lawyer who asked Jesus, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" What was Jesus' reply to him? He is asking to be praised for following the law. His question is a little on the rude side, because it really isn't proper to ask what we will inherit, though some of us have made that mistake. Jesus was probably teaching in some house or courtyard, and his habit of giving local color to his parables suggests that he was probably in or near Bethany, through which the road from Jerusalem to Jericho passes. The lawyer stood up to attract attention to himself, and thus give emphasis to his question and its answer. The lawyer no doubt expected that Jesus would lay down some new rule for obtaining salvation. Instead, He referred him back to the Law of Moses. Fourfold emphasizes the "do", you can't just study the Law or the Bible, you should do what it tells you to do.
2. Why did the above lawyer now ask Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" Again, he seems to want to justify himself, just as we like to justify ourselves. He may be still standing and to minimize his embarrassment, he asked this question.
3. Briefly summarize the parable of the Good Samaritan. What is the main lesson it teaches? There is a Jewish man beat up beside the road and the Levite and the priest pass him by. They were afraid that if they helped him, they would become unclean. The Samaritan comes along and helps him, taking him to an inn and paying for his care, telling the innkeeper that if more is needed, he will pay him when he comes again. The road from Jerusalem to Jericho is eighteen miles long, and descends about 3,500 feet. About two miles from Jerusalem, it passes through the village of Bethany, and for the rest of the eighteen miles it passes through desolate mountain ravines without any habitation save the inn, the ruins of which are still seen about half way to Jericho. This district from that time till the present has been noted for robberies, and Jerome says that the road was called the "bloody way." The point of the story is that anyone who needs our assistance is a neighbor. In the priest and Levite,

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 15 Jesus
The Good Samaritan and the Feast of Dedication

the lawyer saw the picture of his own life, for he saw in them those who knew the law, but did not practice it. There may have been many excuses for this neglect of the wounded man: danger, hate, dread of defilement, expense, but Jesus does not consider any of them worth mentioning. The Samaritan was crossing ethic lines to carry for the man while his own people were too concerned about their purity or schedule or whatever. In his reply the lawyer avoided the name Samaritan so distasteful to his lips.

Jesus, the Guest of Martha and Mary

Read Luke 10:38-42

4. When Jesus visited the home of Mary and Martha, what did Mary do? What did Martha do? Mary sat at His feet and listened to Him. Sitting at the feet was the ancient posture of pupils. Martha was busy in the kitchen, preparing a meal. She was evidently preparing an elaborate meal and was experiencing the worry and distraction which usually accompanies such effort.
5. What complaint did Martha make to Jesus? What was His response? Martha complained that Mary wasn't helping her. Fourfold says that she is insinuating that Mary wouldn't listen to her. Jesus said that Mary had chosen the most important thing. Food for our bodies is important, but we must feed our souls too. Fourfold comments that Jesus is contrasting soul feeding with worrisome business. One of the sermons on this passage concluded by the minister saying that Thank God there were Marthas in the church to get work done.

Prayer Taught and Encouraged

Read Luke 11:1-13

6. Why did Jesus' disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray? They had seen Jesus pray often. They knew that they would need to know how to pray better. Jesus had already taught his disciples how to pray in the Sermon on the Mount. This disciple probably thought that the prayer already taught was too brief to be sufficient, especially as Jesus often prayed so long. It was customary for rabbis to give their students to pray.
7. Using the model prayer recorded in this text for your answer, briefly summarize the components of an acceptable prayer. You recognize or praise God. Give glory to God. You thank Him for past blessing. You ask for forgiveness of sins knowing that you must forgive

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 15 Jesus
The Good Samaritan and the Feast of Dedication

others to receive forgiveness. Ask for protection from evil and temptations in the future. You recognize that His Will prevails.

8. Briefly relate the story of the friend who comes at midnight. What is its lesson? The friend has come at a most inconvenient time. Think of sleeping in a group on the floor. You are going to wake everyone as you get up. In the summer Orientals often travel by night to avoid the heat of the day, and the customs of the land then made hospitality so obligatory that the greatest inconvenience and deepest poverty did not excuse one from practicing it. The occasion here described would call for three loaves, that the host and the guest might each have one, and that there might be one in reserve. The friend persists in his requests. The point is that sometimes you have to ask more than once for something, Jesus also contrasts how even humans will give and God is much more generous than we are.
9. What three terms did Jesus use in teaching His disciples to make their requests known to God? How did He say the Father would respond to such request? Ask, seek, and knock. If you ask you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened. Fourfold comments that old commentators tell us that the white scorpion, when rolled up, closely resembled an egg.

Sabbath Healing, Mustard Seed and Leaven

Read Luke 13:10-17

10. What was wrong with the woman Jesus healed? How long had she been afflicted? On what day did He heal her? She had an evil spirit that had afflicted her for eighteen years. He healed her on the Sabbath. There is no evidence that the woman came with any intention of being healed. The ruler addresses the crowd rather than confronting Jesus.
11. Who objected to the above healing and why? What was Jesus' response to him? An official of the synagogue objected because this was work on the Sabbath. These leaders were 1. They were disguising their hatred toward Christ under a pretended zeal for the Sabbath. 2. Their zeal for the Sabbath was at no time sincere, for they favored indulgence where their own interests were involved, but applied their Sabbath rules sharply where others were concerned. Jesus pointed out that they took their donkey or ox to get water on the Sabbath, by untying them. How much more important it was to free this woman from her illness. He mentions the woman's descent from Abraham because, according to their ideas, it made her worthy of every consideration.

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 15 Jesus
The Good Samaritan and the Feast of Dedication

12. What were the reactions of the following groups of people to Jesus healing the woman, and to His response to the one who questioned Him?
- a. His adversaries- were ashamed of themselves.
 - b. The multitudes-rejoiced over the wonderful things He had done.

Read Luke 13:18-19

13. What is the lesson of the parable of the mustard seed? The mustard seed is the tiniest of seeds but it grows into a large tree. Its small size as a seed, but the plant itself becomes like a tree. In Palestine, some are ten feet tall. The Christian faith grew from the eleven disciples into the world's largest religion with over 2 billion followers.

Read Luke 13:20-21

14. What is the lesson of the parable of the leaven? Again, a small bit of yeast or leavening can change a whole batch of dough. Christians, even in small groups can influence the world around them. In Oriental cooking yeast isn't saved separate from bread. You have what we would call a "starter dough" that is mixed with the larger new dough. The leaven makes the whole dough rise. Leaven represents the quickness, quietness, thoroughness, and sureness with which gospel truth diffuses itself through human society. Christians as leaven make the world a better place even when it seems that our numbers are small.

The Feast of Dedication

Read John 10:22-42

15. What request did the Jews make of Jesus at the Feast of Dedication? What was His response? They ask Him if he is the Messiah to tell them plainly. He said that He had told them and to look at His deeds. He said that those who didn't believe weren't His sheep. Remember that this follows last week's scripture about the Good Shepherd. The feast of dedication was one of eight days' duration fell in the month of December. The feast was kept in honor of the renovation and purification of the after it had been desecrated by the Syrians. This happened during the time of the Macabees. As this feast was commemorative of national deliverance, the rulers considered it an opportune time to tempt Jesus to declare himself to be the Messiah, or coming Deliverer from the present Roman oppression. We are

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 15 Jesus
The Good Samaritan and the Feast of Dedication

told that it was winter, that we may understand why Jesus walked under cover in Solomon's porch. This was a colonnade on the east side of the temple court, the name probably being derived from the wall against which it was built, which Josephus tells us was the work of Solomon. The leaders are surrounding Jesus in an attempt to capture Him as He makes any definitive statement. Think of reporters gathering around those notables leaving a courtroom. He had, at the feast of tabernacles, set himself forth as the Good Shepherd, and on other occasions as the Son of Man as He called Himself.

16. As given in the text, list the characteristics of those who are the "sheep" of Jesus. The sheep listen to Jesus. They follow Him. They have eternal life. No one can snatch them away.
17. What claim did Jesus make about Himself in relation to the Father? How did the Jews react to this statement? What did Jesus use for evidence to support this claim? He claims that the Father gave Him these followers. He also claims to be one with the Father. The Jews want to stone Him.

Where did the leaders of the Jews get this idea of stoning? The Old Testament relates several incidents of proper stoning. In this instance, the accused has cursed God in front of witnesses and the people have brought him to Moses and Moses consults God.

Leviticus 24: 14-15 "Take the blasphemer outside the camp, and have all who heard him lay their hands on his head; then have the whole assembly stone him. 15 And you are to tell the Israelites, 'If anyone curses his God, he shall bear the consequences of his sin. 16 Whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord must surely be put to death; the whole assembly must surely stone him, whether he is a foreign resident or native; if he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death.

He asks them which of His good deeds are they stoning Him for? Jesus urged that a divine claim was made good by a divine life, but they replied that a divine claim issuing from a human body was blasphemy.

Read Psalm 82

18. Who are the "gods" to which Jesus refers? Since the civil rulers of a land are ordained of God, they were regarded as God's delegates or ministers, and as such the inspired Psalmist addresses them, calling them gods. Where is the scripture He cites? Psalm 82. How are they "gods?" They were commissioned by God to their positions.

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 15 Jesus
The Good Samaritan and the Feast of Dedication

19. If the Jews would not believe Him, what did Jesus tell them to believe? What would they prove? He told them to believe His deeds, the things that He did fulfill the Old Testament prophecies about Him.
20. Upon hearing the above teaching, what did the Jews attempt to do to Jesus? What did He do in response? They tried to seize Him to bring him before the Sanhedrin, but he slipped out of their grasp. The presence of Jesus in this place recalled to the minds of the people the work of the Baptist and his testimony concerning Jesus. They knew John the Baptist to be a prophet. John the Baptist didn't do miracles and signs. But his predictions related to Jesus which had come true.

Closing prayer: Father God, help us to follow the example of Jesus more closely. Amen.

Luke 10:25-37	Luke 13:10-17	John 10:22-42
Luke 10:38-42	Luke 13:18-19	
	Luke 13:20-21	Psalm 82
Luke 11:1-13		

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