

THE  
**MAN**  
WHO CHOSE  
TO BE A  
**NEIGHBOR**





# Introduction:

This parable teaches us that how we treat others is a choice, not a circumstance.

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On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

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Luke 10:25 (NIV)



**“What is written in the Law?” he  
replied. “How do you read it?”**

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Luke 10:26 (NIV)

He answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Luke 10:27 (NIV)



**“You have answered correctly,”  
Jesus replied.  
“Do this and you will live.”**

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Luke 10:28 (NIV)

But he wanted to justify himself,  
so he asked Jesus,  
“And who is my neighbor?”

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Luke 10:29 (NIV)



In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

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Luke 10:30 (NIV)



A priest happened to be going  
down the same road, and when  
he saw the man, he passed by  
on the other side.

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Luke 10:31 (NIV)

So too, a Levite, when he came  
to the place and saw him,  
passed by on the other side.

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Luke 10:32 (NIV)



**But a Samaritan, as he traveled,  
came where the man was;  
and when he saw him,  
he took pity on him.**

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Luke 10:33 (NIV)

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.

Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

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Luke 10:34 (NIV)



The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

**“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”**

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Luke 10:36 (NIV)



The expert in the law replied,  
“The one who had mercy on him.”  
Jesus told him,  
“Go and do likewise.”

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Luke 10:37 (NIV)

**FIRST, there was a man who  
wished to test Jesus.**

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He was an expert in what the Law  
**SAID**, who was not necessarily  
an expert in what the Law  
**MEANT**.

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He was a man who thought that he had the authority to stand in judgment of the very ONE who would someday be judging HIM!

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He was a man accustomed to  
**TEACHING** who didn't realize  
he still had a need to be  
**LEARNING.**

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**NEXT**, there was a man who fell  
into great **MISFORTUNE**,  
through no apparent **FAULT** of  
his own.

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He was **BEATEN** and left  
without **STRENGTH.**

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He was **ROBBED** and left  
without **RESOURCES**.

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In a day in which some think  
**EVERYONE** is a **VICTIM**,  
and others think **NO ONE** is a  
**VICTIM**, Jesus reminds us that  
**WE NEED EACH OTHER!**

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**THEN**, there were two  
**RELIGIOUS** men who could  
be expected to be faithful in  
fulfilling their **OBLIGATION**.

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At the heart of human  
**RELIGION** is the  
**MANDATE** to fulfill all of  
one's **RESPONSIBILITIES.**

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At the heart of the **EXPERT'S**  
question was a desire to find the  
outer boundary of  
**OBLIGATION.**

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*Jesus' answer to the expert's question served to reveal the very personality and values of God!*

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**FINALLY**, there was a  
**STRANGER** who was:

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Under not **OBLIGATED** by  
**BLOOD** or by **LAW.**

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**ABLE** to assist the man who had  
fallen into **MISFORTUNE**,  
because he had both the  
**STRENGTH** and the  
**RESOURCES** to meet the  
man's needs.

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Forced to **CHOOSE** whether he  
would fulfill the  
**OBLIGATIONS** of a  
**NEIGHBOR**, or would  
**PASS ON BY.**

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# Conclusion:

Jesus was asking the expert in the Law if he would choose to act as the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan.



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