

WHICH OF THESE WAS A NEIGHBOUR?

Brad Driedger - August 23, 2026

Luke 10:25-37 (NLT)

THE LAWYER'S QUESTIONS:

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" ²⁷ The man answered, " 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " ²⁸ "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" ²⁹ The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

JESUS' STORY:

³⁰ Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. ³¹ "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. ³² A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. ³³ "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. ³⁴ Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'

JESUS' QUESTION

³⁶ "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. ³⁷ The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." ...

Jesus changes the question from "what kind of person is my neighbour" to "what kind of person am I?"

It's not about "Who I should love" - it's about "how I should love"

JESUS' COMMAND

Luke 10:37b (NLT)

... Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A NEIGHBOUR?

1. A NEIGHBOUR LOVES EVERYONE

Matthew 5:43-44 (NLT)

"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

Luke 6:32-36 (NIV)

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward

will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

2. A NEIGHBOUR LOVES BEYOND RELIGIOUS ACTS

Matthew 9:13 (NLT)

Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

Hosea 6:6 (NLT)

I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings.

Romans 12:9–10 (NLT)

Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

We want to be more than just “church people” - we want to be loving people!

3. A NEIGHBOUR SHOWS COMPASSIONATE LOVE

“Compassion” in Hebrew: Rakhamim

Luke 10:33-35

“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. ³⁴ Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’

Compassion leads to a generous and self-giving love!

Romans 13:8–10 (NLT)

Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God’s law. ⁹ For the commandments say, “You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet.” These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God’s law.

Luke 6:36 (NLT)

You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

Galatians 6:9–10 (NLT)

So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.