

Excavate: Lesson 4: Mercy – The Good Samaritan

I Sam. 16:7

Mt. 5:7

Scripture Text: Luke 10:25-37

Background:

1. People
 - a. Jesus
 - b. Lawyer – scribe, probably a Pharisee – job was to know the Law of Moses and interpret
 - c. Samaritan – see below
 - d. Priest – tribe of Levi, directly involved in the worship of God
 - e. Levite – tribe of Levi, probably an assistant to the Priest, indirectly involved in worship
 - f. Man travelling
2. Places
 - a. Jerusalem
 - b. Jericho – Joshua destroyed in Joshua 6; city rebuilt
 - c. Road – 17 miles long, descends 3000 ft
 - d. Samaria
 - i. Split into Northern & Southern Kingdom
 - ii. North – rapid decline into apostasy
 - iii. Jeroboam, son of Nebat, introduced idolatry – I Kings 12:25-33
 - iv. King Omir purchased land for a new capital – Samaria – I Kings 16:21-26
 - v. Northern Kingdom attacked & defeated by the Assyrians (722 BC)
 1. Invade, pillage, deport best and strongest, import others
 2. Reminders cannot rise up against the Assyrians
 - vi. They intermarried with the foreigners
 - vii. Created a people of mixed race
 - viii. Contempt between the “pure Jews” and the Samaritans – John 4:5, 8:48

Question: Luke 10:25-29

1. Either the lawyer was acting on his own or he was put up to the challenge
2. Was not trying to learn from Jesus but tempt Him
3. After the question was asked, Jesus turned it back on the lawyer and put him to the test
 - a. He should be a master in the Law
 - b. If he doesn't answer right, he will look bad
4. Answer
 - a. Deut. 6:5
 - b. Lev. 19:18
5. Answered correctly
6. Not satisfied with answer, asks further

Story: Luke 10:30-36

1. Man takes a trip and is robbed and beaten
2. Priest walks by
 - a. Should have had compassion
 - b. Looks at the man
 - c. Goes out of his way to avoid the man
 - d. Possibly didn't want to become unclean by touching the man
 - e. Simply acknowledgement does not equal action
3. Levite
 - a. Should have had compassion
 - b. Looks at the man
 - c. Came over to examine the man
 - d. Goes out of his way to avoid the man
 - e. Doing something does not mean equal doing the right thing
4. Samaritan
 - a. Saw him and had compassion
 - b. The man would have been a Jew and would not have been the type of person the Samaritan would want to help
 - c. Went "above and beyond" the "call of duty"
 - d. Put the man up, paid for his stay, and offered to pay more if need be
5. Question returns
6. We don't know what happened to the lawyer after this
7. Important part is how we react to what Jesus said!

Answer: Luke 10:37

1. Lawyer answers
2. Jesus charges him to show compassion
3. Provides an answer to the original question and taught him a valuable lesson!

Compassion & Applications:

1. Compassion: concerns for the suffering and misfortunes of others
2. Why do we need compassion?
3. How do we get compassion?
 - a. II Cor. 13:5 – examine ourselves
 - b. John 14:15 – Love Jesus & Keep His commandments
 - c. Realize everyone has a soul!
4. Other examples of compassion
 - a. God – Romans 5:8
 - b. Jesus – Phil. 2:5-9
5. James 1:22-25

6. Discussion questions from the book:

- a. What are some ways the church can focus on her mission?
- b. What can the church do to remain properly focused?
- c. In what ways can religious ritual be used to suppress mercy?
- d. In what sense can personal pain help us to develop compassion for others?
- e. What are some other things or ways that can awaken us to being merciful?
- f. Why are some people more compassionate about animals than they are other humans?
- g. What are some barriers to self-examination?

\$20 Bill

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