



**Title:** Be A Good Neighbor

**Date:** May 1, 2022

**Scripture Text:** Luke 10:25-37

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

This week we pause our journey through the Sermon on the Mount to look at the parable of the Good Samaritan. Today is Compassion International Sunday ([compassion.com](http://compassion.com)). It's a good opportunity to see how this parable can help us know who our neighbor is and how we are to 'be a good neighbor'. A good neighbor must have a proper perspective. Let's look at three perspectives and see which is the good neighbor.

Our story picks up ([Luke 10:25-29](#)) with a lawyer asking Jesus "what shall I do to inherit eternal life?". Jesus' responds to the lawyer's question with a question, "what do the scriptures say?". The lawyer correctly quotes from [Lev. 19:18](#) and [Deut. 6:5](#), which included the command to 'love your neighbor as yourself'. Jesus told him he was correct and to do it. The lawyer then asks, "*who is my neighbor?*". Jesus replies with the parable of the Good Samaritan.

### **I. The Robbers ([Luke 10:30](#))**

The perspective of the robbers represents those individuals who see people as objects to be exploited. They're interested in only what they can get from someone else. They are totally driven by selfishness and care nothing for others.

- What are examples of someone with the robber's perspective exploiting others.
- Even if we don't literally treat someone as the robbers treated the traveler, beating and leaving them half dead, how might we slip into seeing others through a lens of only what they can do for me?
- How is the robber's perspective contrary to Jesus'?

### **II. The Priest & Levite ([Luke 10:31-32](#))**

The perspective of the Priest and Levite is to see people in need as problems. They were so focused in getting to church that they missed the opportunity to be the church. They don't see people as a priority but as obstacles that hinder their ability to be religious.

[OVER]

## Morningside Church

If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office.

850.878.5503

[office@morningsidetlh.org](mailto:office@morningsidetlh.org)



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- What would be actions of someone today with the perspective of the Priest or Levite?
- What does it look like to *'be the church'* today?
- What are some ways you can do a better job at *'being the church'* to others?

### III. The Samaritan (Luke 10:33-37)

The perspective of the Samaritan is that people are potential opportunities for ministry. He went above and beyond to meet the needs of the traveler. His question was not 'who is my neighbor?', but 'whose neighbor can I be?'

- In [vs. 33](#), the Samaritan was described as having compassion on the half dead traveler. Describe what it means to have compassion.
- How does the lawyer describe the Samaritan's actions in [vs 37](#)?
- How can compassion and mercy help motivate us to be good neighbors?
- Based on this parable, what does it mean to be a good neighbor?
- Who is *your* neighbor?
- How can you be a better neighbor to them?

**Augustine:** "Since the divine nature is far superior and above our human nature, the command by which we are to love God is distinct from our love of our neighbor. He shows mercy to us because of His own goodness, while we show mercy to one another because of God's goodness. He has compassion on us so that we may enjoy Him completely, while we have compassion on another that we may completely enjoy Him."