



Salient Answers To Crucial Questions

“Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 10:25).

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One of the great qualities of Jesus Christ, was His ability to provide salient answers to crucial questions, often supported by poignant illustrations that left the enquirers in no doubt about divine requirements for heavenly citizenship. This study, often referred to as the parable of the good Samaritan provide answers to two such questions, that are equally relevant to Christians today as it was to those who heard Jesus.

“And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? 27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. 28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. 29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? 30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, 34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. 36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among

“Who is my neighbour?” (Luke 10:29).

the thieves? 37: And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:25-37). We learn from this parable that:

- 1) Questions provide wonderful opportunities for the exposition of gospel truths, that should not be missed. “... be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:” (1 Peter 3:15).
- 2) The man’s first question related to the criteria for eternal life - an essential issue for all believers.
- 3) Jesus answered his first question with questions, that enabled the man to think through the issues clearly and come up with a correct answer to his own question, that attracted Jesus’ remark “thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live” (vs 28).
- 4) Despite correctly answering his question, he did not satisfy the requirement, but wanted to justify himself (vs 29). Correct knowledge is important, but it is not necessarily an evidence of qualification for heaven.
- 5) His second question related to correct identification of a ‘neighbour’, something we all need today.
- 6) He answered his second question with an illustration plus question that enabled this man to answer his own question and receive the verdict of Jesus “Go and do thou likewise” (vs 37).
- 7) Carefully examine the roles played by the Priest, Levite and the Samaritan in the light of how you would respond to situations like that today. Where do you stand?